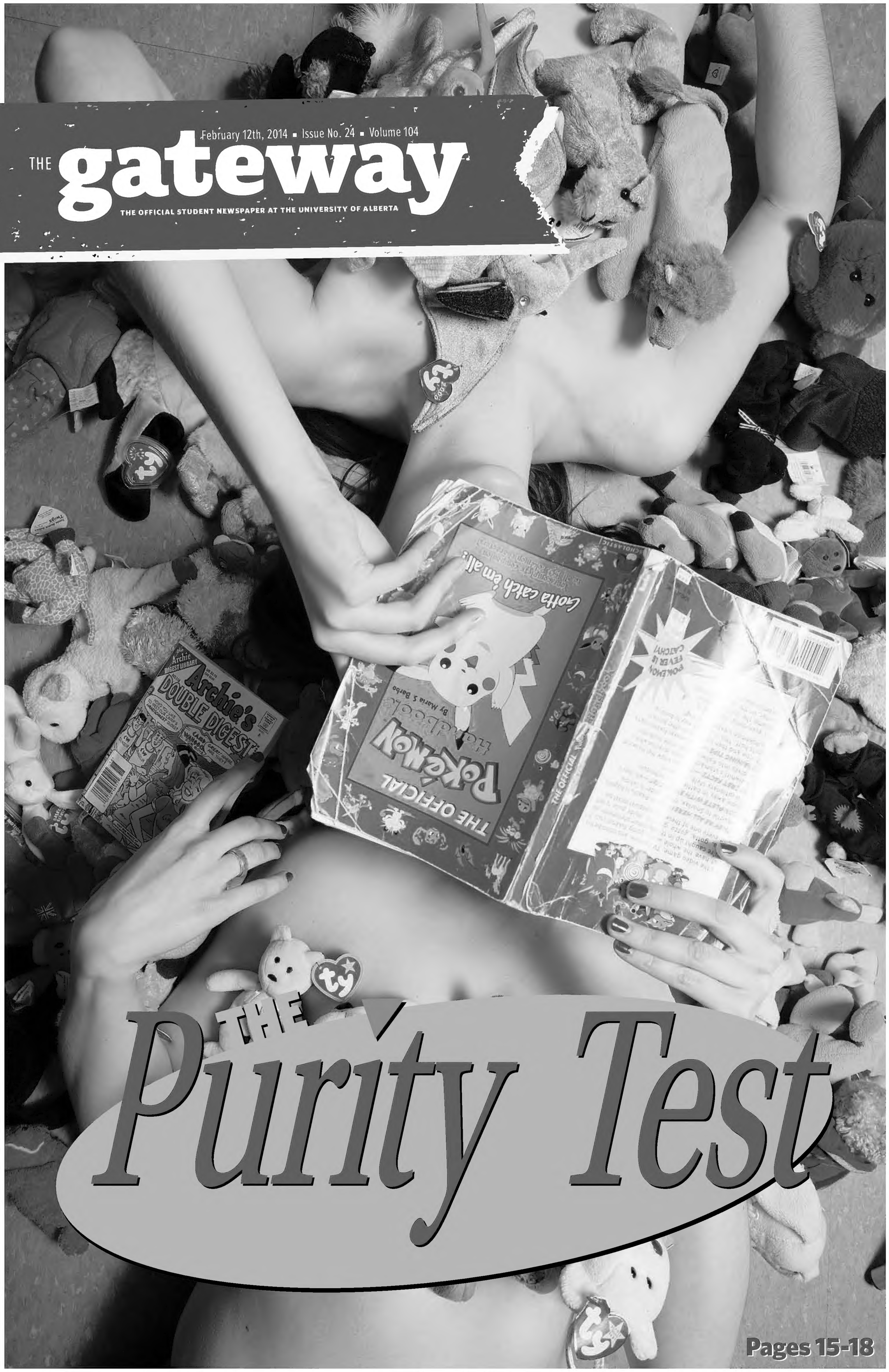
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THE gateway

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The Purity Test

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colophon

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news haiku

I miss dem good tymez
Of just chillin' in Council
With dancing girl GIFs



PHOTO OF THE WEEK A child gets vaccinated for measles at a local clinic in rural Szechan China. AMANDA WANG

streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Andrea Ross + Christina Varvis**

As you may have heard, our Purity Test this year is '90s themed.

WE ASKED...

What's your favourite '90s memory?



Alex Law ENGINEERING I

"I'm 18; I don't remember anything from the '90s. I guess going to SeaWorld, seeing the orca whale Shamu."



Erica Ortt FINE ART III

"Do you remember those games like Bop It and Skip-It? Those things that went around your ankle and counted how many times you skipped over it? I would do that in my backyard. I was a Skip-It champion."



Courtney Lacoste ALES I

"I remember there were lots of outfits with pink pants with pink sparkly shirts. One pair of pants I had had big, multi-coloured flowers on them, which I would pair with my pink shirts."



Harry Singh ENGINEERING I

"Watching cartoons. I was a kid back then, still am. I liked Pokémon."



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Dragon's Den auditions to make U of A stop next week

Andrea Ross
STAFF REPORTER ▪ @_ROSSANDREA

Aspiring entrepreneurs with the next big idea are invited to audition for one of Canada's hottest television programs as *Dragons' Den* makes a stop at the University of Alberta.

Auditions will be held Feb. 15 at the U of A's Stollery Executive Development Centre from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants of all ages are invited and should be prepared to pitch their concept to producers within five minutes. Successful entrepreneurs will have the chance to pitch their idea to a panel of five Canadian business tycoons this March in Toronto.

Dragon's Den is the highest-rated unscripted television program in Canada, averaging 1.2 million viewers each week.

"I think *Dragon's Den* is a lot about inspiring that up-and-coming generation of entrepreneurs," producer Michelle MacMillan said. "I think with students you see a lot of up-and-coming technologies, apps, websites, that kind of thing."

MacMillan said producers are looking for passionate entrepreneurs with innovative ideas that translate well to TV, and should be prepared to explain how their business ideas are profitable.

"What makes a really good pitch is one that can be explained really clearly and concisely within the first 30 seconds of the pitch," MacMillan said. "The best pitch shows you the problem, shows you the solution and also gets the idea right into the dragons' hands.

"It engages the dragons and the viewers at home."

The show has already held auditions in 25 other Canadian cities within the past month. *Dragon's Den* has kick-started the success of products such as Holy Crap cereal, a BC couple's high fibre, gluten-free, vegan breakfast that wooed the dragons in 2010 with its clever name and surprisingly pleasant taste. An investment from the dragons, alongside exposure from the show, boosted the business to five million in sales within the year after the episode aired.

MacMillan said the health food trend factored into many pitches so far this year, with variations on coconut oil products being the most popular food pitch.

U of A alumni Andre Girard and Sheldon Croome found success on the show last year for their ICEcigs, a type of e-cigarette designed to offer a placebo for smokers trying to cut the habit. The realistic ICEcigs contain no nicotine, but instead vaporize water and glycol.

> **"The best pitch shows you the problem, shows you the solution and also gets the idea right into the dragons' hands."**
>
> MICHELLE MACMILLAN
> PRODUCER, *DRAGON'S DEN*

"It's just a really good platform to get you a little bit more credibility in terms of what you're selling, and its free marketing exposure too," Girard said about their time on the show.

Showmanship is key to a good pitch, Girard added, saying producers are focused on how the idea will translate to television.

"Come prepared with a presentation and just know your stuff," he said. "Feel comfortable presenting whatever numbers you have prepared, and don't be afraid to boost them up a bit to capture their intrigue a bit ... Of course an innovative idea is hard for them to say no to as well.

"It's worth a shot."



SUPPLIED

The five dragons are Kevin O'Leary, Arlene Dickinson, David Chilton, Bruce Croxon and Jim Treliving, and the show airs Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on CBC.

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply online in advance of the audition.

U of A kicks off first ever Bullying Prevention Month on campus

Kevin Schenk
PHOTO EDITOR ▪ @KEVINSCHENK

Swirlies, noogies and wedgies may be a thing of the past for those in the campus community, but those involved in the University of Alberta's first Bullying Prevention Month say bullying and harassment are still very much part of university life.

Various campus organizations teamed up to organize the new initiative, which will feature events, workshops and art installations aimed at raising awareness of bullying on campus.

Wade King, advisor with the Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, said he wants the events to remind people that bullying doesn't stop after high school. Instead, it takes on different forms as people's situations change.

"It's less about pushing the kid down the snow hill and more about sabotaging a study group or subtly excluding a co-worker," he said. "People get more cunning. They get a little wiser about how to behave in ways that aren't very positive."

Adult bullying not only looks different from schoolyard bullying, but has higher stakes involved as well. King said adults may fear losing their jobs, and graduate students may fear losing their funding.

Bullying Prevention Month comes almost two years after the U of A's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy was approved in May, 2012.

"We've decided to put it in our policy, which not a lot of universities have done," King said.

The policy prohibits discrimination and harassment by members of the University community. It outlines the University's duty to accommodate disadvantaged individuals, and its responsibility to create and maintain "a work, study, and living environment free of discrimination and harassment."

Like Bullying Prevention Month, the policy isn't meant to be a response to a bullying epidemic. King said the U of A isn't suffering from a crisis, but the month is meant to let those that are bullied know they have support.

> **"It's less about pushing the kid down the snow hill and more about sabotaging a study group or subtly excluding a co-worker."**
>
> WADE KING
> ADVISOR, OFFICE OF SAFE DISCLOSURE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

"I certainly don't think we're a broken campus," King said. "I actually think we're a bit ahead of the path in saying this can happen."

One main partner of Bullying Prevention Month is the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services. In September, iSMSS released the University of Alberta Safe Spaces Climate Report, which revealed ongoing discrimination at the university.

"Although students felt campus was a generally safe space, they didn't necessarily feel particularly supported by the campus itself," said Kristopher Wells, Director of Programs and Services at ISMSS. "Bullying Prevention Month and the upcoming Pride Week are really created to show that we as an institution actually care about all of our students."

Wells encourages people to stop using homophobic and ableist terms, such as negatively using the word "gay," or calling things "lame" or "stupid." He hopes to foster a positive climate, where instead of being discriminated against, people of diverse identities and backgrounds are celebrated.

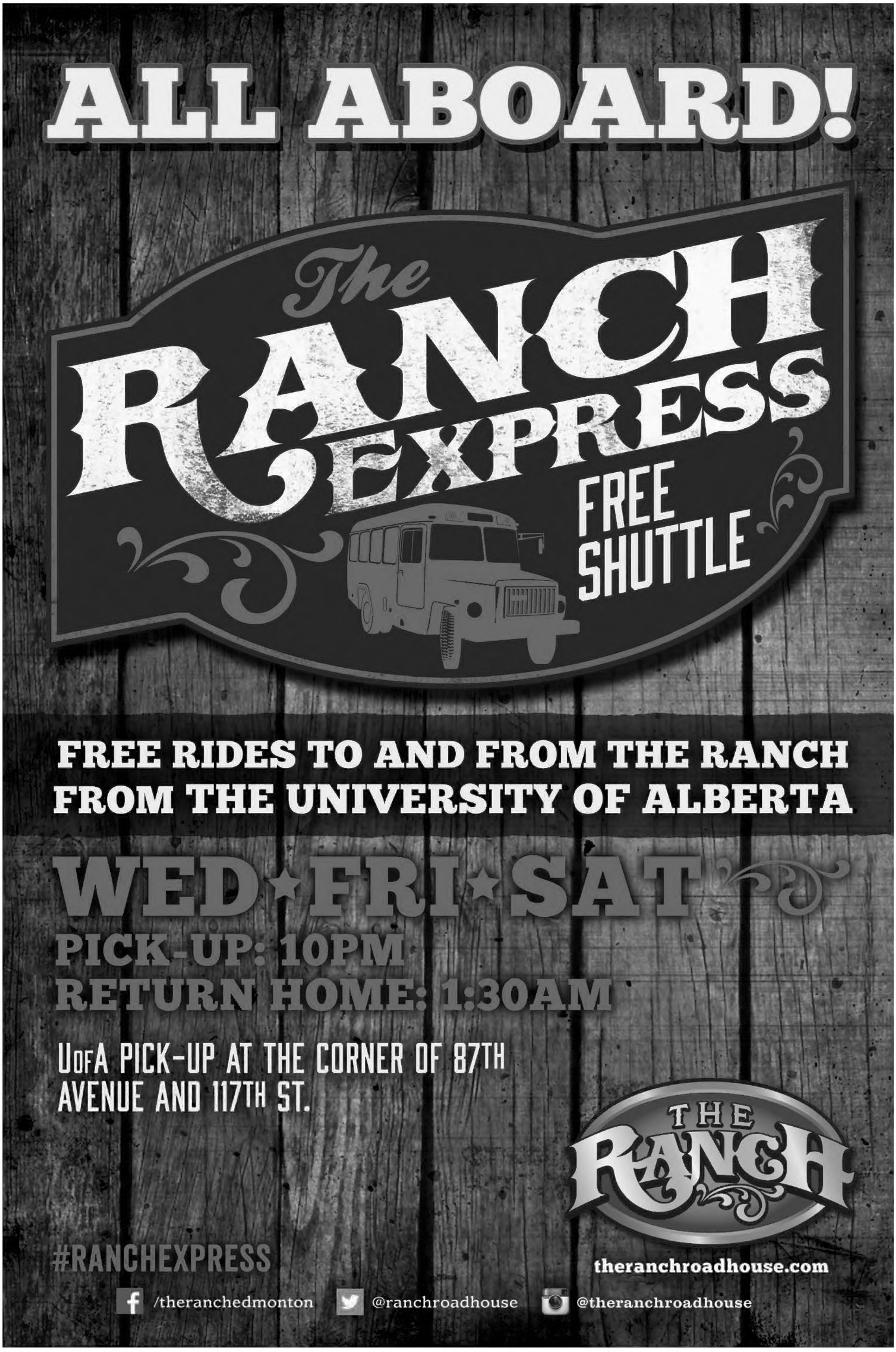


ART OF AWARENESS Bullying Prevention Month kicks off this month. KEVIN SCHENK

"I hope we move to a position where, as the university community, we understand difference and diversity is our greatest strength, not a weakness to be attacked," Wells said.

Bullying Prevention Month leads right into Pride week, which begins on Anti-Bullying Day. Students are encouraged to wear pink T-shirts on Feb. 26 to raise awareness of bullying, discrimination, homophobia and transphobia. Wells said he hopes the events continue to make the university community discuss these issues.

"While we're (focusing) on human rights in the Olympic Games in Russia, I think it's equally important that we turn our focus to our own community to talk about these issues," he said. "Harassment, bullying, and violence and victimization aren't just happening in Russia."


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15-year-old girl "gung ho" to attend U of A next year

Andrea Ross
STAFF REPORTER ▪ @_ROSSANDREA

Marcela Louie was only seven years old and in Grade 2 when the phone rang just before Christmas. It was the results of her IQ test.

"We gotta talk," her father recalled the psychologist saying.

Howard and Roxana Louie always knew their daughter was bright. She started reading words when she was 18 months old and could read full sentences in the newspaper by the time she was three.

But school officials suggested she take an IQ test in the second grade after she finished a year's worth of material from her math workbook in one class. That same year, she was asked to leave science class for being disruptive — the day's topic was buoyancy and she had asked whether they would be learning about Archimedes.

Louie scored a 145, a score that pointed to an incredibly high intellectual ability and one that set her above 99.9 per cent of children her age. She enrolled in a private school where she accelerated her learning and at only 15 years old, Marcela will complete Grade 12 this summer.

She is enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Alberta for the upcoming academic year.

"Coming from high school to university, for anybody, that's a huge change," she said. "But I'm really excited, I'm all gung ho about it. It's what I've always wanted, so it's a dream come true.

"One of my big inspirations is Alexander the Great, and he said 'nothing's impossible for he who tries.' So as long as you want to try, things will work out."

Louie knew she wanted to pursue higher education at the U of A since she was four years old. She would often ask to go to HUB Mall for the day, her mother said.

> **"It's what I've always wanted. It's a dream come true."**
>
> MARCELA LOUIE
> INCOMING STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

She's keeping her options open for now, but Louie is hoping to eventually pursue medicine, pharmacy or research at the university. Studying isn't a chore, the Mensa Canada high IQ society member said.

It's incredibly rare for the university to accept students around the age of 15.

"On average, maybe one student each year that arrives at the U of A is 15 years of age," Registrar Lisa Collins said, referring to statistics dating back to 1977. "Occasionally we've admitted a 14-year-old student and once we admitted an 11-year-old student. But all of these cases are quite uncommon."

Collins said a student's preparedness for university primarily rests on factors aside from age, but that younger students should be aware of the services and academic advising available on campus.

"It is exceptional that a 15-year-old student is prepared for admission to a university degree program," she said. "Not only have they completed their high school studies earlier than most students do, but they are usually very well academically prepared."



PINT-SIZED PRODIGY 15-year-old Marcela Louie will be attending the U of A in September. SUPPLIED

When she's not studying for her next AP biology or physics exam, Louie said she enjoys playing the piano and watching movies. Among her favourites are *The Hobbit* and *The Avengers*, which she has seen more than five times each.

"She's just a normal kid, as far as we're concerned," Howard Louie said. "She's just a goof case. She's just got a very curious mind, which is really neat.

"It's our responsibility to just feed that hunger."

Design students' project a bright light for developing nations

Brad Kennedy
GATEWAY STAFF ▪ @HELLA_BRAD

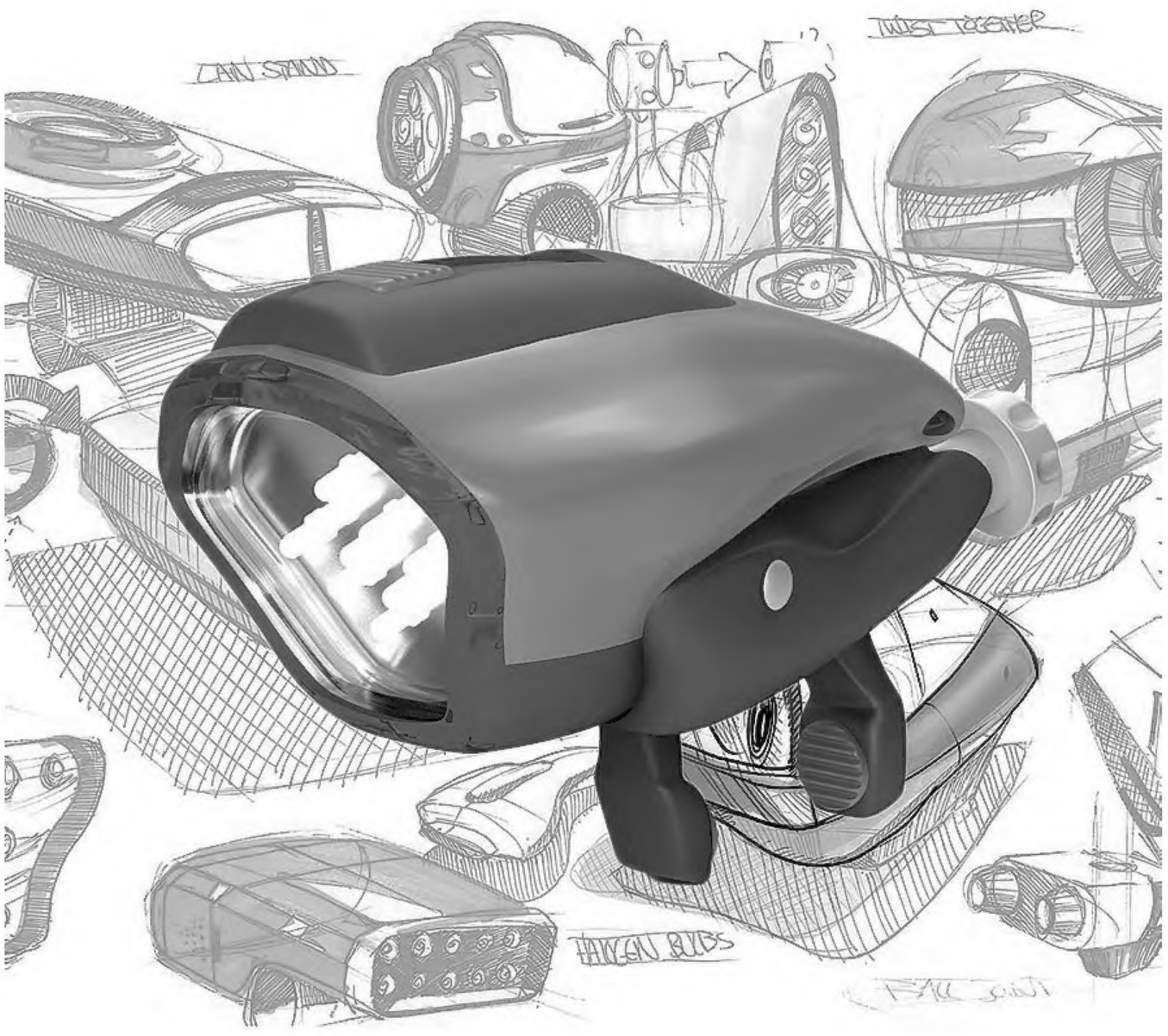
For the 1.3 billion people worldwide without access to artificial light, the day ends when the sun goes down. Now, thanks to a team of University of Alberta industrial design students, that may no longer have to be the case.

> **"We probably only spent about two weeks designing everything. A month and a half was just literally trying to come up with an idea, and talking."**
>
> MIKENNA TANSLEY
> INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

MiON — a battery-powered, dynamo-charged modular light source built from recyclable electronic materials — started as a simple homework assignment for students Kapil Vachhar, Fren Mah, Mikenna Tansley, Russell Davidson and Jiayi Li. But when they realized the widespread applications their project could have in developing nations, they entered it in the University of Illinois' International Sustainable Electronics Competition.

The ISEC focuses on the growing global issue of waste from outdated electronics like televisions and computers, also known as "e-waste," and encourages entrants to develop solutions for a more environmentally responsible technological future. MiON placed second in the competition's product category, and was praised both for its ingenuity of design and its potential to help millions of people worldwide.

"Kapil had this idea of working with a dynamo, where we take the gears and the wires and the magnets from electronic waste and just put it together to make a dynamo that generates electricity (for the lamp)," Mah said.



MION MADNESS U of A industrial design students came up with a battery-powered modular light source. BRAD KENNEDY

"We thought of applying that to third world nations because we noticed there's some issues with (affordable access to) light ... Some people use 20 per cent of their income on oil lamps."

MiON is based around a number of key features of developing nations that make it uniquely suited towards solving the issue of energy poverty.

It's constructed from simple recycled electronic materials that are commonly traded in the markets of these countries, where buying and selling repurposed electronic components is source of income for many people.

Once assembled, MiON attaches to a bicycle, the most common form of transportation in the developing world, and is charged as the bike is pedaled. After charging, the lamp can be used as a headlight for the bike when traveling at night, or detached from the assembly and used as a mobile light source in any number of ways, such as indoor lighting for households without electricity.

Because of MiON's multipurpose function, numerous applications of the lamp had to be taken into account when designing its shape.

"We wanted one that would be very focused on a surface, we wanted one that would be more angled upward to provide kind of general lighting. The form includes a hole in the back where it can be (hung up), like a ceiling lamp," said Davidson, who drew most of the preliminary sketches for the device.

The impressiveness of the MiON's design is only increased by how quickly it was put together; much of the group's two-month time allotment for development was consumed by the difficulties of even coming up with a workable concept.

"We probably only spent about two weeks designing everything." Tansley said.

"A month and a half was just literally trying to come up with an idea, and talking, and trying to figure out electronic waste, and where it can be useful, and what you can do with it."

They aren't the only ones who've struggled to come up with a viable use for e-waste. The team's instructor, Professor Greig Rasmussen, says it's one of the largest and most toxic sources of pollution in the world today.

But inventions like MiON can provide hope for a cleaner, brighter future: one where scrap piles of heavy metals and mountains of plastic do more than sit in landfills.

"At this stage, it's still a conceptual design," Rasmussen said. "But it's absolutely possible to be built. There's not an issue with that. That would be the next phase of development... to actually prototype it."

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Administration adjusts Leadership College plans

Michelle Mark
NEWS EDITOR ▪ @MICHELLEAMARK

The University of Alberta's plans to establish a Leadership College are gaining momentum almost as quickly as they're attracting criticism, but the administration recently brought forward a slightly different proposal to the university community in an effort to make the project more inclusive.

President Indira Samarasekera said the 144-person residence will still be built, but as just one component of the entire Leadership College umbrella, which she said will comprise of campus-wide leadership programming and will be open to any student who wishes to participate.

The Leadership College will, in turn, fall under another umbrella of the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative — the joint leadership program with the Banff Centre.

"Students will be able to choose whether they want to have a very intense experience where they're very actively engaged, or a very minimum experience where they simply attend lectures that leaders give on campus and some mentorship, maybe," she said.

> **"Students are not against it anymore."**
>
> INDIRA SAMARASEKERA
> PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"We're catering, really, to allow students to have the full range of choices about how deeply they want to engage in leadership."

The administration recently presented these plans for the Peter Lougheed Leadership Initiative to last Monday's General Faculties Council meeting, and Samarasekera held a Q&A session at Students' Council last week to address students' concerns. But although she said she has garnered support from both councils, members from each party remained critical.

GFC members were largely wary of the lack of governance process for the college, but some members also expressed worry about the residence's exclusive nature — with one member calling the college "intellectually vacuous and morally pernicious." Similar concerns were raised in Students' Council, where councillors expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of specificity regarding the college's programming.

"Now that GFC have seen it and we generally have support for it, and Students' Council have seen it — I think I have support for it — now we can go back to the donors and say, 'Here is what the idea is. Are you still ready to commit?'" Samarasekera said. "Students are not against it anymore."

Meanwhile, the Students' Union has drafted a discussion paper listing several recommendations for adjusting the plans for the Leadership College, and better fostering student leadership on campus.

Dustin Chelen, SU Vice-President (Academic), said the administration's current plans are unclear as to how connected the residence will be with the college itself, and what the academic programming will look like.

"The feedback that I have heard at Students' Council, at GFC, is that right now the academy isn't on board. And I think that's a really dangerous place to be for something that I think is so important to the future of students," he said.

"There needs to be more thought that is put into this leadership residence and this Leadership College."

The SU's recommendations include separating the residence from the Leadership College, developing leadership in all residences rather than just one and providing support for existing leadership programming, such as undergraduate research, Community Service Learning and the Study Abroad program.

Chelen said if a residence must be built, it should be built either separately from the Leadership College or at least not begun while programming development is still in such preliminary stages.

> **"The feedback that I have heard at Students' Council, at GFC, is that right now the academy isn't on board."**
>
> DUSTIN CHELEN
> VP (ACADEMIC), STUDENTS' UNION

"Nowhere in (our) research did we see a recommendation that you need to build a residence specifically for leaders. In fact, some of the research suggests that you need to do as much as you can to diffuse leadership opportunities across the university," he said.

"It doesn't make sense to build space when you don't know how that space is going to be used by the program."

Q&A — Indira Samarasekera

BY **Michelle Mark**

Despite the administration's efforts to garner support from the university community for the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, students, faculty and staff remain highly critical of the proposal, and hazy on its details. President Indira Samarasekera presented plans for the Leadership College to both General Faculties Council and Students' Council last week, and agreed to an interview with The Gateway *to clarify the administration's evolving plans.*

It seems like these plans for the Leadership College have been changing rapidly since September; can you speak a little about what changes have been made and what sorts of factors influenced these changes?

The plans for the Leadership College now very much resemble what we had anticipated doing three years ago. So really, it's very much based on a white paper that was written in 2010, and what we have done is really to revisit that white paper based on the fact that the students provided us feedback, and their input suggested that what we had originally been talking about — which was the notion of a broad umbrella social entity called the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, which would consist of a number of programs, such as mentorship, undergraduate research initiatives, international leadership experiences, community service learning and a small residence.

What are your thoughts on the criticism the Leadership College has attracted?

I think the criticism has been as a result of some misunderstanding that the Leadership College will simply be a small program that will largely be residential. I think that what we've now done is to clarify that we intend to make it broader so that the Leadership College is accessible to any student who wishes to have a leadership experience, and students will be able to choose whether they want to have a very intense experience where they're very actively engaged, or a very minimum experience.

If students and student leaders seem to be so against the Leadership College, why is it still being pushed on them?

The students are not against it anymore. I have had assurances from (SU President Petros Kusmu) and (VP Academic Dustin Chelen) who have been part of the Academic Planning Committee that came up with this latest vision. They've been part of that committee and their ideas have been taken into account. They cannot possibly say that they're against it when they've been part of the group that planned it.

What would it take for the U of A to reconsider undertaking this project?

The project is what the U of A community has finally developed through a normal academic planning process. There is nothing different between this process and every other process that we use to develop new programs.

How much control would you say donors have over this project?

Very little. They can choose to give their money or not, based on whether they like the idea. But donor control is clearly not something that is possible with Canada Revenue Agency's rules. Donors can give advice, they can express preference for things they'd like to see, but the university has processes by which they decide what would be in there.

How much money have donors raised, so far?

We haven't got a final tally yet. We're working on that ... We did not want to finalize it until we presented to GFC and Students' Council. Now that GFC have seen it and we generally have support for it, and Students' Council have seen it — I think I have support for it — now we can go back to the donors and say, 'Here is what the idea is. Are you still ready to commit?'

How much needs to be raised in total?

At minimum, I would say we hope to raise at least $100 million to $120 million.

What sort of governance process does the Leadership College have to go through in order to be established?

At this point, any new programs that need to be approved will go through normal governance programs. Any of the programs underneath the Peter Lougheed College will need to go through specific governance if it has any kind of academic content. At this point, we'll be looking at what the governance process is.

What sort of admission requirements would the Leadership College have?

It's based on student interest and aptitude. Students who demonstrate a commitment to undergoing these programs will be admitted.

Can you speak a little to the significance behind using the term "college?" Why isn't it "centre" or "institute?"

We have a very clear definition for what centres and institutes are, and they are academic entities. This college is not an academic entity — it's basically an umbrella for co-curricular activities, and "college" is a word that's used in many universities for co-curricular activities that come under an umbrella. It very much resembles colleges in other institutions.

Many are expressing doubt that this project is something Peter Lougheed would have wanted. How would you respond?

The best way to judge it is you look at Peter Lougheed's experience at the University of Alberta and the things that he valued, and those things that he valued are the ones that we're trying to recreate here. He valued teamwork, he valued engagement, he valued civic contributions, he was in athletics, he lived in a fraternity house, he valued being part of a community, and that's what we're trying to recreate here.

Can you give me an estimated completion date?

It depends very much over the next few months as to what the steps are.

For an extended version of this Q&A, please go to gtwy.ca

Some student groups concerned about event approval procedures

Andrea Ross
STAFF REPORTER ▪ @_ROSSANDREA

Registered student groups will see immediate changes to registration timelines, executive training and composition, disciplinary and event approval under new procedures released by the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Group Services.

Updates to the registration process mean certain members of the executive team will have to undergo training offered by Student Group Services. Groups will also be required to re-register after electing a new executive team, minimizing what can be a lengthy processing time.

Executive group members must now be composed solely of University of Alberta students.

"That's mainly to reflect the kind of philosophy behind student groups, which is that student groups are meant to provide leadership, so we're really interested in having the leadership of a student group be all students," said Lana Cuthbertson, Student Event Risk Management Co-ordinator.

Under the new procedure, disciplinary processes will go through the Office of the Dean of Students — a change Cuthbertson said doesn't affect many groups.

Broad changes have been made to the event approval procedure, which has been expanded to include a larger array of events needing advance approval. Previously, student groups hosting events involving alcohol, travel or physical activity had to undergo advance approval from the Dean of Student and Student Group Services. All events are now required to undergo approval, including any event planned under the group's name or for which the executive team plans by working together and using group resources.

"There's a concern out there, understandably, that this means it includes things like group meetings, which it doesn't," she said. "There are definitely going to be some grey areas that I know are going to be asking questions that we might not even have thought of, so we will have to deal with those as they come. But I think we'll just use a reasonable, common sense approach to deal with those.

"We're not going to unreasonably ask for all kinds of approvals that we really don't need."

A series of events can be submitted for approval once, Cuthbertson said. The changes are intended to streamline the event planning process and ensure the safety of students while placing the responsibility of risk assessment on the university.

The new procedures apply to all groups and clubs operating on campus and have been in the works for a number of years, Cuthbertson said.

Changes to the scope of event approval has some groups — including fraternities and sororities — concerned about possible barriers to facilitating long-established events.

"We were really concerned about how it would affect things like initiation," said Stacey Cook, president of the University of Alberta Panhellenic Association. "Because we are a secret society, we're wondering how do we get things like initiation approved when we can't really give any details as to what we're doing with that, so those are definitely some concerns some of our executive had."

Cook said the group's executive team is also concerned about the feasibility of mandatory training sessions for the president, treasurer and primary event organizer of every registered group's executive team.

Cuthbertson said the training sessions will be offered throughout the year to accommodate busy schedules.

The updated event approval procedure mirrors policies common at most Canadian universities, she said, and alongside increased executive training offers a more streamlined way of providing help to groups who host events.

"I think they'll find that it's actually easier for them to submit their form and get the help they might need... once groups realize that it's not a big process to go through this form, and in fact it might even be a benefit to their group," Cuthbertson said.

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MIGUEL ARANAS

Computer Engineering student starts new coding club for girls

Darcy Ropchan
OPINION EDITOR ▪ @DRROPCHA

Computer Engineering student Alix Krahn knew she wanted to pursue an education in Engineering for a long time, but didn't discover her aptitude for coding and computer science until her first year of university.

Once in her program, Krahn found there were very few women in her classes, and that — in comparison to male classmates — female students weren't given the same amount of support and exposure to computer science in their younger, more formative years.

Krahn is now the co-ordinator for the Girls' Coding Club — a DiscoverE outreach program under the Faculty of Engineering that teaches computer programming to girls in grades three through nine. It's designed to educate young girls on the limitless potentials of computer programming by offering an introduction to computer coding and engineering concepts for real-world applications — making computer sciences more accessible and supportive for female students.

"One issue is that sometimes computer sciences is stereotyped as an unsupportive environment," Krahn said. "Another thing that frustrates me is that a lot of the science outreach directed at girls tries to take science and make it pink, instead of actually making it more supportive and a better environment for women."

> **"It's not clear to (girls) that if they code, they can change the world."**
>
> ALISSA BOYLE
> CO-ORDINATOR, DISCOVERE CAMP

The Girls Coding Club aims to show the practical uses of coding outside of just sitting in front of a computer screen in a classroom. DicoverE Camp and Workshop Co-ordinator Alissa Boyle said teaching the tangible uses of coding is what will keep young women interested in computing science.

"Oftentimes, particularly in engineering and computer-based programs, it's not clear to (girls) that if they code, they can change the world. They can help children in Africa find water sources," Boyle said. "Oftentimes you'll see girls go into veterinarian sciences or medicine because there's a little bit more of a direct connection that they can see and that's something our program is good at — helping girls to see that."

The DiscoverE program has recently won its second Google Rise Award, an award that supports organizations that teach computer science to under-represented people. A sum of $30,000 is being given to the Girls Coding Club. In addition to the money, the club receives a wealth of support and professional development from the staff at Google as well as networking opportunities for similar organizations around the world.

Krahn said the importance of coding comes from the need to not only be consumers of technology, but producers of it as well.

"It's important knowing that you're not just sitting in front of a computer and making PowerPoints; you can engineer what's inside of the computer. You can change the technology around you. Being scared of code or not realizing you can change things is really detrimental," she said.

"Our mission is to reach out to all under-represented groups," Boyle added.

"This is just another way for us to provide that support for youth who might not have that support anywhere else to go and follow their dreams."

Focus on youth, training in federal budget

Jane Lytvynenko
CUP — OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

OTTAWA (CUP) — In a bid to foster job creation, the Conservative budget presented on Feb. 11 took a student and training focus. Aiming to ease debt loads and address a "skills mismatch," the Economic Action Plan 2014 introduced new programs and changes in funding to existing government initiatives like apprenticeships, internships and research funding.

"Creating jobs and opportunities remains our government's top priority," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said in his budget speech to the House of Commons. "We're making sure that opportunities are there for everyone."

In an initiative to train new workers for available jobs, the Economic Action Plan 2014 announced changes to the Canada Job Grant program, which was created with the last year's budget. The new program will be launched this year and direct up to $15,000 per trainee in funding from the government and employer.

Since its introduction, the program has been met with pushback by the provinces, who were originally asked to provide $5,000 of the $15,000 funding.

While employers are still responsible for providing a third of the grant, the budget says if provinces refuse to negotiate an agreement, the remainder of the funding will be provided directly through Service Canada. Employers will also be able to provide their share of the grant through wages, reducing the burden of coming up with $5,000 up front.

The new budget also created the Canada Apprentice Loan as a part of the Canada Student Loans Program. The loan will, "provide apprentices registered in Red Seal trades with access to over $100 million in interest-free loans each year."

An apprentice will be eligible for up to $4,000 in loans per period of training. The budget says, "at least 26,000 apprentices are expected to apply."

Another project, Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship and Technical Training, is aimed at encouraging innovative training techniques for technical apprentice training.

While only a pilot project, the FIATT will have the ability to support 12 multi-year programs implementing training techniques such as simulators, video conferencing and online learning.

FIATT will see $13 million in funding over four years, starting this year.

The Youth Employment Strategy overseen by the government annually receives $300 million for skills and experience acquisition. The government will review the program to "align it with the evolving realities of the job market." According to the budget, the program will likely focus on science, technology, engineering, math and skilled trade sectors.

Also, as a part of the strategy, $15 million per year will be reallocated to 1,000 internships in small and medium-sized businesses.

Flaherty said the government is on track to balancing the budget next year as projected.

"We don't want to pass on our debts to future generations."

PLEBISCITE!

The Athletics and Recreation Fee (ARF) is a Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) levied by the University of Alberta and paid by every on-campus undergraduate and graduate student. In addition to funding from the university, donors, sponsors and program revenues, the ARF provides revenue that enables the university to provide recreational and interuniversity sport programs and facility access to students. In general, the fee revenues are designated to cover the costs of professional staff that manage the aforementioned programs. The ARF is currently $64.92 per semester for full-time students and $32.46 per semester for part-time students.

In consultation with the Students' Union (SU) and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), it has been agreed that an increase to the ARF would be accompanied by the following stipulations:

- no increases to student user fees for existing intramural programs for a three (3) year period and existing fitness programs or services for a one (1) year period;
- free admission to all regularly scheduled Golden Bears and Pandas events excluding Canada West and CIS playoffs and special events;
- 10% student discounts on merchandise from the Golden Bears and Pandas store;
- facility access at no charge for two special events per semester sponsored by the SU and/or GSA (subject to SU and GSA participation in the required facility scheduling timeline and process); and
- one (1) presentation in each of the Spring or Summer and Fall semesters, respectively, by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation to Students' Council on the status of the ARF, the Golden Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund, the Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund, and the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre fee.

Given the explanation and the stipulations described above, do you support an increase in the Athletics and Recreation Fee of $16.38 per semester for full-time students and $8.19 per semester for part-time students?

Registration of members for both "Yes" and "No" sides will take place on the 6th floor of SUB at 5:30pm, Friday, February 14.

All undergraduate members are invited to register as a member of a side.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL **COMMENT**

Council making the wrong moves with international tuition

THE TUITION OF FIVE PER CENT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS was, once again, the topic of discussion at a recent University of Alberta students' council meeting, and once again, the news coming out of the meeting was met with a resounding shrug by most students.

While that's par for the course for engagement in student politics, one of the decisions made at this meeting was a bit more troubling than the usual council fare.

Still reacting to the international student tuition hike, council recently voted to direct the SU executive to spend up to $2,500 to obtain a legal opinion as to whether this increase violates the Alberta Human Rights Act, and whether the section in the Post-Secondary Institution Regulations defining tuition fees violates the Canadian Charter of Rights. Since this hike came in the wake of severe budget cuts to the university, accusations have been laid against the institution for using international students as a cash cow to make up for other lost funds.

But this allocation of SU funds sets what could be an awful precedent, and the decision-making process leading up to the motion's vote displays a lack of foresight and cohesion on council.

The problem is that it's $2,500 of students' money going towards an initiative that, judging from the discussion surrounding it, could ultimately go nowhere. After all, the vote to even obtain the advice in the first place passed with just over half of the councillors present not voting in favour of it, with eight abstentions and six voting in opposition. This isn't overly shocking. There's no clear long-term strategy on council for how they could actually use the information, and hopes of using it in advocacy efforts towards the provincial government are pretty bold considering the SU is now publicly in favour of seeking their legal options against the government.

If there was some greater strategy for this information, students could feel safe knowing their money is being spent responsibly. Even if this wasn't the case, if there was the option to seek legal advice that didn't cost the SU thousands of dollars, it could be a harmless endeavour. But the divide in council comes from some being wary of the potential final result of this counsel, that being a lengthy and expensive charter challenge or court case that the SU may not be able to ultimately afford.

It's not as if this is a case of seeking legal advice or doing nothing. Rather, council should have a better idea about the intent of this request and their overall strategy for representing international students in this initiative before they spend student money on it.

It's true that $2,500 isn't exactly going to break the bank for the SU. But it sets a difficult precedent for the future where a pet project and underdeveloped idea taken on by a councillor is reason enough to warrant thousands of dollars in expenses.

In a 39-page document put together to sway councillors in favour of this position, Arts Councillor Bashir Mohamed wrote that he's presenting this issue "because it's what students want." But whether council is truly even connected with what students want on this issue is unclear. It remains to be seen how many students would be in favour of seeking this legal counsel, a battle in court paid for by the money they put towards the SU.

A petition is included in the document with the names of several U of A students signing off on very general terms that the SU explore "all legal, political and social avenues," when developing a long-term strategy to regulate international students tuition. Even then, only five of those signatures actually came from self-identified international students at the time it was included in this document, and the two councillors who identified themselves as international students during debate on the motion voted against the initiative.

But the biggest problem with debating motions like these without more foresight is it furthers a deep-rooted problem of student disengagement with council. Spending so much time debating even just getting the opinion on whether to pursue further action doesn't give students any reason to believe that council time is being well- spent or that their SU fees are being used responsibly.

With that in mind, meetings will remain poorly attended by the general public, some faculties will still struggle to find candidates who want to run for council positions and voter turnout will remain dismally low. It's difficult enough already to convince the average student to follow the decisions of the council representing them, but this year's group has consistently spent too much time debating subjects like these that seldom end up turning into tangible results or policy changes. This will inevitably breed more apathy in students who feel like their representatives don't spend these meetings discussing truly important matters.

And so the cycle will continue as council meeting by meeting goes by with disengaged students responding to their decisions with nothing but a shrug.

Andrew Jeffrey
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



ANTHONY GOERTZ

letters to the editor

Dean's comments confusing

I would like to address some comments made by Dean Mummery regardingtheAthleticsandRecreation fee plebiscite proposal. As the fifth VP (External) over the years to fight the issue of mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIF's), I want to first off commend the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation for working with us to bring the fee to a student vote. This is tremendous progress and we thank Dean Mummery for his willingness to work with students.

With that being said, some of the Deans comments confused me, and reflect a concerning attitude. The SU has worked to try and bring many of these concerns to the attention of the campus community over the past few weeks.

Dean Mummery asserts that plebiscites to do with fee increases will invariably get voted down. This is false. Statistics in Alberta have shown that students have voted in favour of fee referendums 76 per cent of the time, with students especially likely to vote in favour if the value of the fee in question has been properly demonstrated. The successful student-run U-Pass, Student Health and Dental Plan, and Physical Activity and Wellness Center referendums speak to this.

Students should have the right to say what fees external to tuition they do or do not want, to ensure that services students are charged for are actually services that students use and want.

Thank you for your time,

Adam Woods
VP (EXTERNAL)

FROM THE **WEB**

Form your own party

(Re: *Aboriginality: Why I won't be voting in the next federal election,"* By Billy-Ray Belcourt, Feb. 2)

While I sympathize with the author's sentiments, keep in mind that voting for someone else is not the only option in an election. If you feel strongly about your issues, and that none of the existing candidates will address them adequately to your liking, you can form your own political party and field your candidates in the election, or run as an Independent. We no longer live in the era of Louis Riel, and to "develop alternative governance models" you need to have political influence, resource, and leadership.

Richard Zhao
VIA WEB

People should be active in politics

(Re: *Aboriginality: Why I won't be voting in the next federal election,"* By Billy-Ray Belcourt, Feb. 2)

At least you have a reason. I will be voting, and I will encourage everyone I know to vote. And if there was an alternate party that supported Indigenous rights and addressed a Indigenous concerns, I'd vote for that party. I just think any government that wanted to retain the status quo would absolutely love it if we didn't vote.

In addition to voting, I will also continue to work and devote my efforts to supporting my brothers and sisters through education, alliance building, practicing my culture, adding in some small way to the national dialogue and forming as strong a voice as possible.

If I have even minuscule power to alter the trajectory of Canada through my one small vote, why wouldn't I take that opportunity? And if we all did — well then you get a pretty good nudge. Even if it does nothing, at least I can say to my grandchildren that I did everything I could, no matter how insignificant it seemed to be.

My belief is that Indigenous people in Canada should be as active as possible in every level of government, bringing their agendas with them, speaking for the land, for each other, for All Our Relations. Change isn't going to happen by withdrawing from the system. How could it? It's also not going to happen by hoping you can change the system from within. But it will happen through a change in the hearts of all our potential allies. I look at protests and Indigenous movements around the world and the one that spoke loudest and woke people up was Idle No More.

It spoke to core values we all share. It wasn't about 'getting our due' (which is long overdue as far as honouring the Treaties goes) but it was about protecting and caring for the land for our descendants. And it still is.

PLEASE SEE **LETTERS** ◆ PAGE 11



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GMOs are nothing to be scared of



Adrian Lahola-Chomiak
OPINION STAFF



PHOTO: KEVIN SCHENK

Labelling products in grocery stores containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) is a contentious issue to say the least. The Coalition for Safe Affordable Food, comprised of farming and biotechnology advocate groups, has pushed congress to reject proposed mandatory labeling of GMOs in favour of a voluntary labeling policy. But labeling food products that contain GMOs would create confusion and further encourage the spread of misinformation moreso than it would protect consumers. The mandatory labeling of GMOs would be a mistake for practical and scientific reasons.

Lobbying directly to the United States federal government, the coalition is encouraging lawmakers to pass legislation that would make the labeling of products containing GMOs a voluntary effort for food producers. Mandatory labeling would be reserved for GMOs, or any other ingredients that the FDA considers to pose a "health, safety, or nutrition risk," although no existing food fits that category. The coalition is also pushing for GMO products to be included in a natural foods category. Although the two proposals don't make much sense — if food is dangerous it should be removed, not labeled, and defining anything as natural is silly — the core issue of labelling products containing GMOs being a voluntary enterprise is important.

There's currently no reason to believe that GMO foods are harmful to grow or consume. Various studies have tried to find harm, but only those with poor research methodology have ever been successful. To give an example, there was a highly publicized study that seemed to show that rats fed glyphosate resistant corn, also known as Monsanto Roundup Ready Corn, developed more lethal tumors than the control group. However, the publisher, Elsevier, eventually retracted the paper when it became clear the authors had gone statistical fishing to get their conclusions. Despite significant methodological flaws anti-GMO advocates claimed that GMO foods were potentially carcinogenic as gospel, this story is passed around on forums and Facebook as evidence to this day, and it causes anxiousness about what impact mandatory labeling would have.

Disregarding scientific evidence is something the anti-GMO movement does consistently. Skeptical criticisms exist, but much of the movement is steeped in pseudoscientific notions and ridiculous pro-natural sentiments. Emotional arguments and fear mongering about the big scary GMO corporations that are poisoning you and your children have proven effective, especially on the matter of mandatory GMO labeling. Many people want labels because they're scared of what effect GMOs may have, and this fear has spread like a virus. If labels were mandated, the implication would be that these products are in fact dangerous, thus facilitating further fear mongering. Ultimately, labeling would encourage people to turn away from GMO products based on an unfounded fear of genetic engineering.

Blindly rejecting GMOs because they feel different is fundamentally flawed. Almost no current fruit or vegetable crop has any corollary in nature, because they were created by centuries of selective breeding. This is genetic modification on the genome scale and it's produced incredible variation, even within crops. Hold up a russet potato to a purple majesty and the difference is immediately apparent. Genetically engineered crops feel different but are substantially equivalent to their unmodified counterparts, even more so than another strain. Unless GMO products appear scientifically to be importantly different to the consumer, which they currently do not, there's no reason to mandate they be labeled specially.

Voluntary labeling allows corporations to adapt to the desires of the consumer and not be held to the whims of the generally unscientific anti-GMO movement. Mandating labeling would have no benefits to customers and would only encourage the spread of misinformation about GMO products. It's a discussion that could go back and forth for hours, but the scientific consensus is that these foods are not harmful.

No excuse for going over the border with gun



Graham Hornig
OPINION STAFF

It's a well known fact that Canadian laws are much stricter about the possession, concealment and use of guns — especially when compared to our neighbours in the south. It's been discussed many times over in the past: why many Americans think it's some sort of given right to have them and why we as Canadians in general have agreed that everybody walking around with a killing machine in their pocket probably isn't the best idea. It's a line that's been drawn and made clear many times.

This past week, it was reported by *The Los Angeles Times* that last September, former U.S. Army sergeant major Louis DiNatale and his wife allegedly and unknowingly attempted to cross the Canadian border with a gun in their car that he had forgotten about. It's alarming that a member of the military, who's been trained with the proper mindset of respecting his gun and likely being aware of its location at all times, would be the one to run into this situation of all people. While many are looking at the matter as an overreaction by the border patrol, the truth is that our Canadian Border Patrol was just doing its job efficiently, and deserves no criticism regarding their decision to detain him.

Immediately, this whole situation raises a few red flags. It's baffling how a former sergeant could forget about a gun in his car that he claimed he usually carried with him. This furthers the question of how responsible of a person he is, and calls into question the whole truth behind the situation. What's even more striking is how DiNatale's lawyer tried to position the situation, saying, "It's no different than leaving a pair of hockey skates in your car." When people attempt to make a gun carried under a concealed weapons license seem as innocent as some sports equipment, the integrity of the whole argument begins to fall apart.

Forgetting about something illegal is not a get out of jail free card, contrary to the point DiNatale is trying to argue. If it was, drug smugglers could simply claim they forgot about the cocaine lining the walls of their van every time they got caught, and just turn around and try to hide it better next time. This is as absurd as it sounds, and for this reason, any traveller attempting to enter into Canada with controversial items — be it drugs or a gun — should be aware of the law or otherwise face the consequences. Ex-military or not, you aren't exempt from the law.

Forgetting about something illegal is not a get out of jail free card, contrary to the point DiNatale is trying to argue.

Our Canadian border patrol agents don't need to provide any further justification for their actions. They acted within the law, and found a person attempting to take a firearm that they had claimed they didn't have into the country. The court will decide DiNatale's fate in the end, but as far as the actions at the time of the agents go, we should be commending them for their vigilance and thinking instead about how many legitimate gun smuggling attempts they successfully prevent everyday.

Belvedere won't be better without liquor store



Darcy Ropchan
OPINION EDITOR



DON'T TAKE MY BOOZE AWAY Not allowing liquor stores won't make a bad neighborhood good. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION KEVIN SCHENK

If you don't like something, but don't want to do anything about it, you can just pressure the government into banning it. It may sound like a childish sentiment, but that's what some residents of Edmonton's Belvedere neighborhood are celebrating now that Edmonton city council has unanimously defeated a motion to open a new liquor store in a strip mall development in the neighbourhood.

The proposed liquor store would've been part of a mall containing a restaurant, drugstore and gas station. According to city planners, the proposed liquor outlet followed all city regulations, including being at least 100 metres away from other liquor stores and being the proper distance from schools and public parks. Councilors voted 13 - 0 against rezoning the area for a liquor store — much to the celebration of some Belvedere residents.

The opposition stems from the neighbourhood residents' beliefs that a liquor store would attract the wrong kind of crowd. In an *Edmonton Journal* interview, Belvedere Community League President Mike Kleparchuk stated, "We feel putting a liquor store in the proposed location would really open the flood gates and attract undesirable people. We feel that if you don't want urban sprawl, continue making decisions that support young families moving into residential neighborhoods."

It's no secret to anyone familiar with the neighbourhood that certain parts of Belvedere leave a lot to be desired. Yes, there are some sketchy areas that don't look like the best place for a young family to live in, but to blame that on liquor stores is wrong. Yes, "undesirable" people may tend to flock to a booze outlet, but keeping them away and keeping the area clean and safe is a matter for business owners and law enforcement.

In the same *Edmonton Journal* article, Sangram Sindhar, whose relatives would have been running the store, stated that fears of crime were overblown and that it would've simply been a local business, serving residents of the community.

Because of what residents fear *might* happen, a potential business — a source of jobs and income — will never have the chance to flourish. Although the merits of alcohol can be debated, a local business with something to provide to the community will never have the chance to open. Instead, big brand name liquor stores will dominate the neighbourhood.

Nobody wants to live in a bad area of town, but if Belvedere residents want to clean up their streets, they need to take an active role instead of forcing the city to remove something that's caused no harm. Reporting crimes and undesirable activity as well as an increased police presence in the area are ways in which Belvedere residents can take charge of their community. Of course those kinds of measures already happen, but community redevelopment must start from the ground up. Instead of not letting businesses set up shop because of the undesirable crowd it might bring, Belvedere shouldn't be letting undesirable people establish themselves in their community. Increased neighborhood vigilance and working closely with law enforcement is the way to do that — not banning businesses.

LETTTERS ◆ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

So in the end, it's not what you don't do, but what you actually do that makes the difference. We need to be engaged. We need to engage others. We need the engagement of as many non-Indigenous people as possible if we want to see fundamental course correction in Canadian politics.

I've offered a governance system model that would exist outside of government (that could surely be improved upon but which also a start). It can be googled, I'm sure.

But the point is that there are many ways to transform the way we relate to and interact with those who would represent us. Will voting do that?

Not by itself, of course. But it has a better chance than non participation.

That's like being handed a stone to place on a dike but refusing to add it because the tide's coming in anyway.

All that being said, I really enjoyed this article.

Aaron Paquette
VIA WEB

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway *reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.* The Gateway *also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

Valentine's Day is here and once again, I'll spend it alone — eating a tub of cookie dough ice cream while crying in the bathtub. Why is it like this year after year?

I just want a sweetheart. Come down here and love me.

#3LF three lines free

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree or message us at www.thegtwy.ca/threelinesfree

C's get degrees but they don't make good Students' Union President's.
Just something to think about.
Apply water to burnt area.
"Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something." - Plato
To the pretty girl behind me at Tims I may be good looking, athletic, and brilliant but unfortunately im also socially inept. Everyone has a weakness, now you know mine. :(
You are going to die alone and unhappy Nebraska red.
Does anyone ever get this right?
Eric anc bicycle helmet woman are very creepy people.
I need a date for Valentine's Day. Is anyone willing to help me out with this? It requires you to wear an English Dandy costume.
Kalopsia
There's a dan Reynolds (imagine dragons singer) look alike in the back of soc 241. You sir are freaking attractive.
terrible music, though
For those wondering, my vagina has been sufficiently murdered.
My dick has been kidnapped
WiFi in Rutherford Lounge sucks diseased monkey dicks
WiFi in Rutherford Lounge sucks diseased monkey dicks
What the fuck did you just say to me you little bitch?
Hold the coffee; I want the sleep.
Give me the keys; I want the jeep
if you look like a lumberjack and drive a truck, marry me.
pffft
To the guy in the back of music 101 you're hot but you seem like a huge dick. Chill out man.
What was your purity test score?
If you want to lose weight, just hang out with bigger people.
Next time you are coming to my party please don't bring cooking cherry.
Missed Connection: We met at a party. I was a little drunk and you were kind of handsy. I asked if you wanted to go out but you told me I hide the right to remain silent.
Fuck Valentine's Day, I'm watching House of Cards.
Did I just take a poop in HUB Mall?...
Like in the actual mall?
i bet you that dick in music 103 is eric.
It's all my head I know. Or so they tell me so. Until my head explodes, into my head it goes.
Anyone know what happened to all the swivel chairs at GMac?
Would anyone be interested in dressing up like cupid and chasing me across campus on Friday? I will provide the sash and undergarments. Only srs responses pls.
Who is John Galt?
Does anybody else think Petros Kusmu is a total babe? His glasses remind me of a Kennedy. I like it.
You are literally the only person who thinks that, Petros.
Hay there cutie pie,
cutie cutie cutie pie,
cutie cutie pie!
My wife is a lousy cook, Toast should not have bones.
Way to steal Rodney Dangerfield's joke, you unoriginal fuck.
Intead of wearing bright colours, just try being a better person.
It's not working
Libray staff - do not try to be extra nice to anti-social assholes like R
Looking for a lost sock. If found please call. Don't put it on. It's not that kind of sock.
Will you be my Valentine?I am very romantic, caring and intimate if that defines LOVE. Come to Hub Mall study area on top of Cookies By George
Maybe I will and maybe I won't.
It's too bad your health care doesn't cover personality implants.
Connection no longer missed as I am replying. Did you see me kick the Yorkshire or the Poodle?
This is the sign you've been looking for. Just do it. What's the worst that could happen
Butts
We get some pills to swallow
None of you noticed my new ass pants :(
Because you look like shit
all this bitching about HUB walking, jesus. I get we're all students but buy a hitachi or a fleshlight and chill out guys
Don't need one
50 Shades of Blade: The Tax Man Cometh
Beneguy Cumberdude
Didja get that... thing I sent ya?
why does kim kardashian like kanye? he's yeezy on the eyes
Shut up
but butt butter
Alcoholism really agrees with you.
It makes you better looking
I am getting you some dignity for your birthday.
Do classy people walk out on an expensive bar tab? Not likely cigar girl.
Vamlumtimes is serious times.
clitoris
Fuck it, I should have gotten my letter to Hogwarts.
Guess who won the University Battle of Alberta Chess Tournament, now 5 years in a row? That's right, U of A baby!
Your poor excuse for breaking the law, secretly amuses me.
Labia
Majora
This guy has a pin suit and a Bluetooth headset. What year is it?
2014, bitch
The guy next to me just did a bump of coke. 8am classes, am I right?
Pls send in the same 3LF 4 times. So cool, so relevant.
Every single time I was dreaming of broken promises that never came true.
Please remember that I never lied.
OMG that girl with the blond hair in my pysch 104 class is a total hottie. I know she reads this. Hey babe!
Happy Valium times day
Missed Connection: we exchanged glances at the old used book store. I was in the true crime section while you were perusing teen paranormal romance. WE locked eyes only briefly, but that told me all I needed to know. You live a life of pain and sadness and I can help you with that.
We're so luck, guys
The Gateway *reserves the right to refuse publication of any 3LF it deems racist, sexist, libellous, homophobic or otherwise hateful in nature. Let's keep it classy. We all need to love each other and get along if we're going to get by in these tough times. Words have the potential to hurt so much. No stop reading this and go get laid. It's Valentine's Day.*

The awkward little things that make coitus so curious



Opinion Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY



UNDER COVERS I don't know where I end and my lover begins.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HONG

Everybody just wants to talk about sex. But unfortunately, nobody wants to bring up all the funny little mishaps that make it interesting. *The Gateway* has compiled a list of some of the best awkward things about sex.

Tyler Hein

I love talking about awkward sex with people for the same reason I love seeing people get their high-five left hanging. It lets me know that I'm not alone in my awkwardness. It's a comfort to know that someone else has heard a chest fart or been caught in public or stumbled through the eternal evil that is the front-clasp bra.

It only takes one other person's story of a sexperiment gone awry for you to not feel so bad about the time you painstakingly drew flames onto your own Mr. Bojangles to surprise the girl you were seeing who was really into Kings of Leon. At the time, it seemed like a brilliant scheme to segue from a definitely hilarious "this sex is on fire" joke to some of that sweet, sweet under the sweater but still over the bra style action. Or, you know, some other hypothetical situation that I totally haven't been seeing a specialist about.

Which is why it's so weird to me that nobody I talk to ever admits to having experienced the most awkward part of my regular sex routine. I speak, of course, about the apology at the end. It may be a little awkward, but I wouldn't trade the joyfully uncomfortable dance that ranges from her, "That's it?" to my eventual, "You should probably just learn to take it as a compliment" for anything. Because after all, if your sex is missing the awkward apology afterwards, was it really sex?

These slight hiccups during sex happen. They're a fact of life and, honestly, we all should start talking about them more. As a society, we really should strive to remove the stigma attached to these cute sex mishaps and these totally normal apologies.

So, in honour of Valentine's Day, let's just all acknowledge and speak openly about the awkward joy of the post-sex apology.

Please everyone, I need this. Don't leave me hanging.

Adrian Lahola-Chomiak

Imagine you're right in the middle of a reverse seahorse with a hot companion and suddenly a pillow is unintentionally smothering you. I'm sure it happens to everyone, but for some reason nobody ever wants to talk about it. Pillow and blanket mechanics are one of the most technical aspects of a proper love wrestle, and failure is all too common.

Navigating the environmental hazards in the bedroom is certainly a challenge. Maybe you get started under the sheets and then as things heat up, you decide to move around a bit. Before you know it, you've got your foot wrapped up in the quilt and your hand awkwardly propped on one of those stupid decorative pillows made of something that feels like sandpaper.

Things only get worse in the winter when people add a dozen smaller blankets into the mix. It's really hard to get the correct leverage for pop-pop when you're being eaten alive by the blanket monster of bedroom mountain. Unfortunately, when it's cold, it's also way harder to convince your partner to toss away their warmth shield so you can maneuver properly.

Sex is fun. Pushing your bedmates head further and further into the pillow mound isn't. Bed mechanics may make for laughs but it's just one of those awkward sex things nobody talks about.

Darcy Ropchan

I can't believe nobody wants to talk about chest farts. I'm always being told that I'm ruining things like dinner parties and class discussions by bringing up the topic on a near constant basis, but enough is enough. It's my favorite part about getting intimate with someone and damn it, we're going to talk about it.

For the uninitiated, chest farts tend to happen when you're on top of your partner and facing each other. You're up there, thrusting away and making magic, when the chests of you and your partner happen to come together for just a second — creating a brief airlock that releases with a noticeable fart-like sound.

My favourite part about the whole experience is that you're instantly faced with the choice of whether or not to acknowledge it. You better believe that I acknowledge it — by laughing incessantly, of course. It may kill the romantic mood you were going for, but I believe that nothing is more important than laughter.

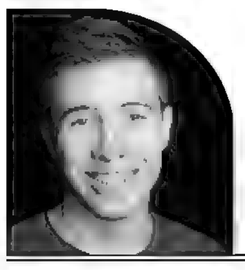
Emma Nelson

Sex in itself is awkward. But what's even more awkward is what happens after the deed. How long does it take for you or your partner to check your phone? Who goes to the washroom first? Should you even bother cuddling?

The awkward part comes from the expectation. Wondering if you should stay or go are only natural questions to have. Depending on how everything goes, the epilogue can go either way. If the sex is great, then the after part will probably merit the same result. But if the sex is awkward and the condom won't go on, the positioning is all off, the blankets tangle at your feet, the light is too bright and the dog managed to somehow find her way into the room, then the post-cuddle hangout small talk will probably suck. It feels awkward just thinking about it.



Don't overthink the texting game



Joel Aspden
OPINION STAFF



TEXTING IS HARD But it doesn't have to be. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION KEVIN SCHENK

When it comes to relationships, texting is a lot of work — at least, it can be way more than it needs to be. We overthink, we overanalyze, we worry incessantly about replies and we'll even go to our friends for advice sometimes. What should be a simple case of read-and-reply often turns into what feels like an episode of *The View*, where every word, emoticon and punctuation mark can be scrutinized to the point where the real meaning of the conversation is diluted. To make things worse, these patterns can even ruin relationships when we carry them beyond the hormonal dating phase. So in the spirit of Valentine's Day, we should agree to stop putting so much weight on this texting thing.

Admittedly, texts clearly have their benefits: they're efficient, they don't require a quiet or private space, and you can take time to choose the right words. While some people are definitely too attached to their phones, they're still a fantastic resource. It's only when we start putting too much meaning into how we use these tiny machines that problems start to arise.

Just like Facebook and social networks in general, texting has some unwritten rules that will cause others to get the wrong impression should you "break" them. That said, this etiquette is no more complicated and no less intuitive than in-person conversation. For example, if the first text that you receive from someone is "Hey ;)" then chances are that they're into you. Similarly, you wouldn't call someone at 8 a.m. on a Saturday to start a conversation, and you probably wouldn't do the same with a text message.

All of this just is just common sense, but the trouble comes when we start making-up pointless, imaginary rules about what, when and how things should be said. When we start searching for the same amount of depth in a text message as we do to an in-person conversation, that things begin to get troublesome for relationships.

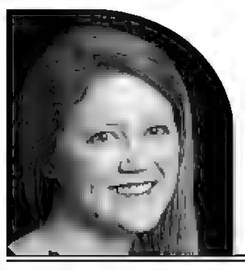
No one can text for days on end with the same level of attention, enthusiasm and interest in the conversation. It's practically impossible, yet some feel the need to contribute the same amount of depth and length to every text message they write. No one appreciates a one-word answer, but expecting the average conversation to continue with the same vigour for even a few hours is a lot to ask.

We're also not always in the mood to talk. It doesn't mean we're mad or spiteful towards someone, but that we have an interest and awareness in something else for now, or merely a disinterest in conversation for a while. We're only human, and we shouldn't be expected to be in a conversational mood all the time. But again, if this is really the case for everyone, then it seems irrational that our anxieties get the best of us when we're texting sometimes.

Worrying about whose turn it is to initiate a conversation is also a trivial detail that gets way too much drama and attention. If you and someone you like are truly on the same page, then you'll naturally want to talk to each other. It shouldn't be planned or forced, but spontaneous. If you can't find that rhythm right off the bat, then it's probably not going to work out in the long run anyways. Don't let your friends talk you into wait times, either. Seize the day, and talk to that special someone when talk when your heart desires.

Zealous optimism aside, people just have to take a hint sometimes. On occasion, it just isn't meant to be, and it's important to recognize when the one that you've got your eye on isn't eyeing you back. When you do find that person though, take the chance to get to know them by texting. It's a marvelous way of bringing both friends and sweethearts together. But just remember: nothing beats an in-person conversation, so save your biggest words for your voice.

The situation in Sochi shouldn't be so shoddy



Hannah Madsen
OPINION STAFF

The Winter Olympics have opened in Sochi, Russia, and the reaction from the public has been mixed to say the least. While some aspects of the event were praised, like the opening ceremonies, other issues have come to light, ranging from bad allocations of funds due to widespread corruption, to unfinished buildings and a lack of audience members for events. Multiple Twitter accounts have sprung up over the last few days advertising the more appalling problems with the Winter Olympics this year, and some of them are big problems: a lack of drinking water, uncompleted hotels for international visitors, concerns over terrorist threats and internet security issues. These kinds of problems shouldn't be happening at any sporting event (let alone a set of worldwide competitions), and show that Russia didn't take the right approach when planning the Games this year.

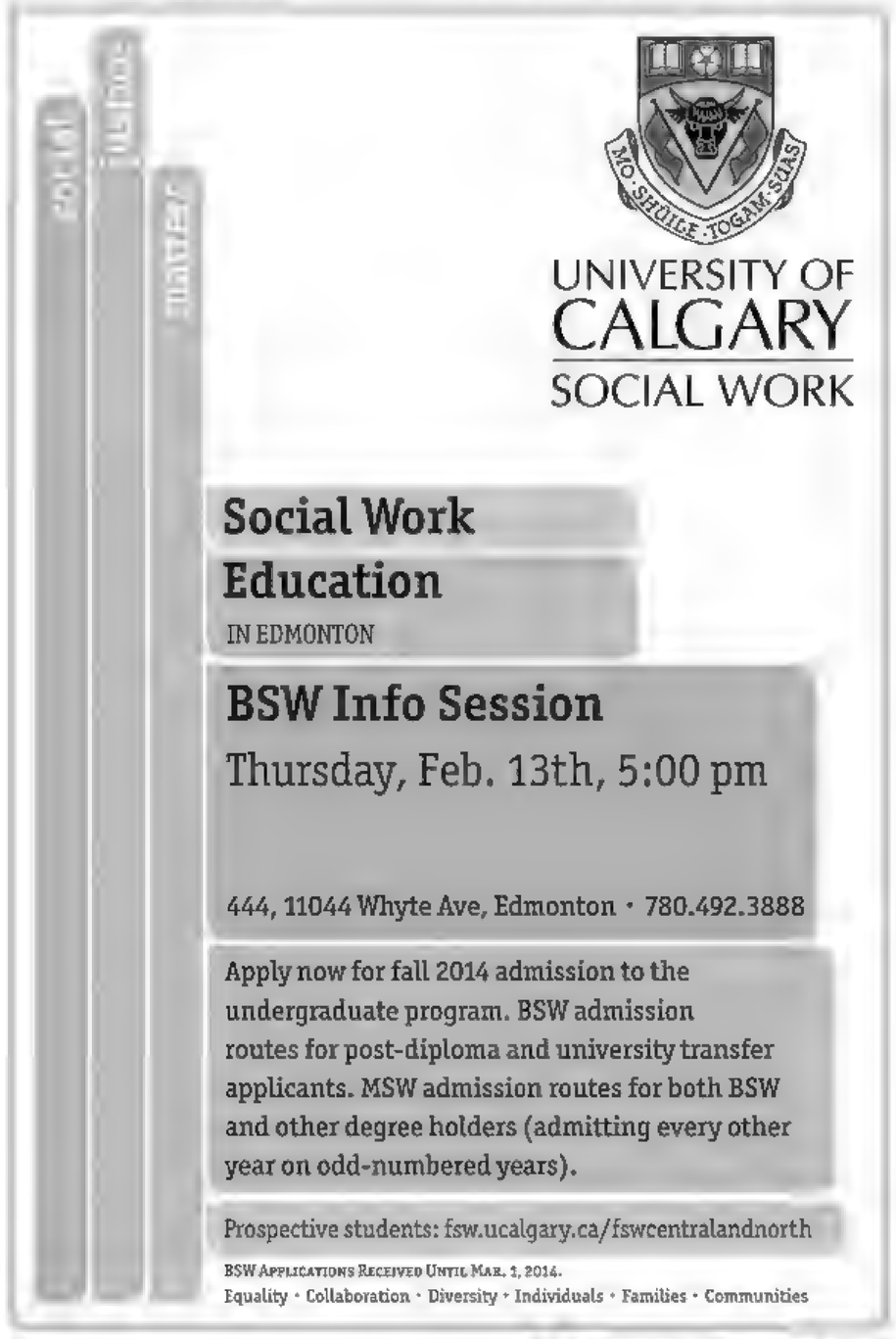
Some writers have responded saying these issues are overblown, and that they're typical for any host country of the Olympics. This is a claim that's hard to substantiate because so little of what has happened makes the news here. What has made it back are largely negative critiques regarding security and urban infrastructure — especially where roads and buildings are concerned. Other issues overlaying this year's Winter Olympics include the cost. Obviously the games are expensive, but the Olympics in Sochi cost more than any other year — and all of the other Winter Games competitions combined. All of the building projects were over budget, and honestly, spending $51 billion on the Winter Olympics is excessive.

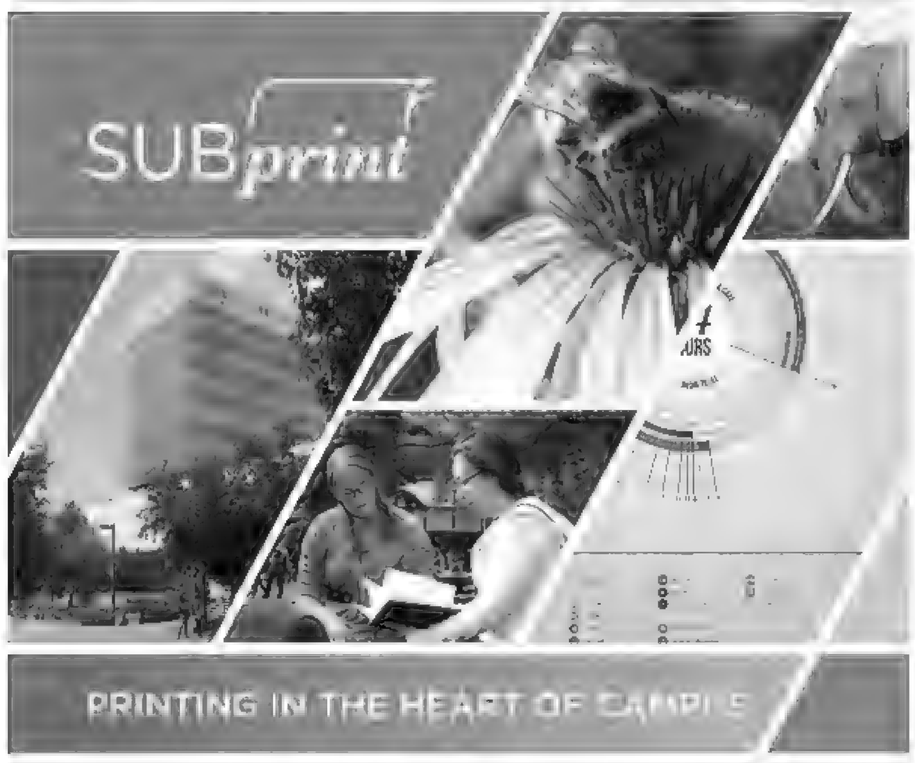
Beyond the exorbitant spending is the fact that there are still key things which haven't been completed — even though Sochi was elected to host the Winter Olympics six years ago. The internet is rife with pictures that are amusing to us at home, but probably not as funny for international visitors. They feature partially unpaved walkways, manholes without covers, drastically-leaning buildings or hotels without working bathroom facilities. One function that the Olympics fulfill is fostering a sense of international community and promoting the host country, so you'd think that making sure non-residents' basic needs like drinking water and working toilets are covered would be pretty high up on the list of priorities. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case.

Not everyone is complaining though. Some of the visiting athletes are quite happy with their accommodations, and the opening ceremonies were received in a very positive light. Avalanche countermeasures have been installed to negate possible environmental disasters, and all of the Olympic facilities were built from scratch. Most of the big things which make a difference in the competitions are good; but the little things that matter most in day-to-day living have been neglected, and those should've been paid just as much attention, especially with the influx of visitors that comes with the Olympics for any host country.

Seeing walkways that still need paving stones and those uncovered manhole covers makes it clear that the planning groups for the Sochi Olympics should have divided up their resources better and devoted just as much attention to completing the Olympic village down to the basics.







Golden Bears & Pandas Athletics

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Golden Bears Volleyball

Canada West Conference Quarterfinals
vs University of Calgary Dinos
Best-of-3 series
Friday @ 4:00pm
Saturday @ 2:00pm
Sunday @ 2:00pm *if necessary
Played at the Saville Community Sports Centre

Golden Bears Hockey

vs University of Calgary Dinos
Friday @ 7:00pm
Played at Clare Drake Arena

Basketball

vs University of Saskatchewan Huskies

Friday, February 14th
Pandas @ 6:00pm
Golden Bears @ 8:00pm

Saturday, February 15th
Pandas @ 5:00pm
Golden Bears @ 7:00pm

Played at the Saville Community Sports Centre



.com/bearsandpandas

Tickets to all Golden Bears and Pandas games can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.ca, through our Activity Registration Zone in the Van Vliet Centre, or on game day at the ticket booth.

THE Purity Test

Written by **Gateway Staff** • *Art Direction by* **Anthony Goertz**
Photos by **Sam Joshva Baskar Jesudasan, Randy Savoie, Alexandros Papavasilliou, Sean Trayner and Kevin Schenk**

Don't call it a comeback – *The Gateway*'s been here for years, and now it's time to take a stroll down memory lane. Back to a decade where flannel-clad grunge bands gave way to frosted tipped boy bands, when everyone screamed, "I'm the king of the world," gossiped about Ross and Rachel, Dawson and Joey or Zack and Kelly – yadda yadda yadda, basically you were happier back then. They were our halcyon days of naiveté and youth, but they inevitably led to you straight trippin' your way into an impure, supposed maturity. Now it's time to test how often you took to temptation, note how naughty you've been and put up your worst moments of going hella postal against all your friends in the 2014 Purity Test. So whoop, here it is!



CRUNK (ALCOHOL)

Have you ever drank alcohol? (1 point)
Gotten drunk? (2 points)
So drunk you threw up? (3 points)
More than once in the same night? (1 point for every time you puked after the first)
Threw up blood? (5 points for surviving)
Puked and rallied? (5 points)
Ever pre-drank so much you didn't make it to where you wanted to go? (2 points)
How many shots have you ever done in one sitting? (1 point for every shot)
Ever destroyed something while drunk? (2 points)
Was it your dignity (-1 point)
Have you ever accepted a NekNomination? (-10 points)

Ever gone on a bender? (2 points per day)
Ever known you had alcohol poisoning? (10 points)
Did you ever have your stomach pumped? (5 points)
Ever gone to class hungover? (2 points)
Ever gone to class drunk? (3 points)
Did you continue to drink in class? (5 points)
Gone to a final exam drunk? (10 points)
Did you pass? (If yes, 20 points. -20 points if not)

Have you ever played Beer Pong? (1 point)
Won a beer pong tournament? (3 points)
Played Beerio Kart? (2 points)
Sociables (1 point)
Quarters (1 point)
Attempted the Power Hour? (5 point)
Completed it? (2 points)
Completed the Centurion? (10 points)

Have you ever mixed liquor with powdered Kool-Aid crystals? (1 point)
Poured alcohol into a slurpee? (1 point)
Have you ever danced to "Sex on the Beach" after drinking a Sex on the Beach? (2 points)
Then had sex on the beach? (5 points)
Have you ever made a screwdriver with Tang? (2 points)
Or Sunny D? (2 points)
Have you ever been drunk off Baby Duck? (2 points)
Off of Chocotinis? (5 points, sooo tasty)
Did you get so drunk you couldn't remember Y2K? (5 points)
Did you get drunk off Zima? (2 points)
Did you use Vanilla Coke as mix? (1 point)

TWEAKIN' (DRUGS)

Ever smoked a cigarette? (1 point)
Smoked a cigar? (1 point)
Smoked a pipe? (1 point)
Chain-smoked? (1 point per cigarette)
Do you chew tobacco? (2 points)
Do you chew it in class and spit it into a water bottle? (-20 points)
Ever used steroids? (3 points)
Other "performance-enhancing drugs?" (5 points)

Have you ever smoked cannabis? (1 point)
Shrooms? (2 points)
MDMA? (3 points)
Done meth? (5 points)
Cooked meth? (6 points)
With Mr. White? (6 points)
Did you do meth while watching the series finale of *Breaking Bad*? (7 points)
Rolled on E at a rave? (5 points)
Dropped acid? (3 points)
Were you tripping balls (Take another 3 points, of course you were)
Ever done a line of coke? (4 points)
Horse tranquilizers? (4 points)
Have you ever taken Adderall to "study?" (3 points)
Snorted Pop Rocks? (1 point)
Popped Xanax? (1 point)
Popped Prozac while listening to Prozzak? (3 points)
Popped a molly, were you sweatin'? (2 points)
On Instagram, straight flexin'? (2 points, you stud)
Did you ever party like it was an S Club party? (2 points, ain't no party like an S Club party)

Did you do any of these drugs "in a drunken stupor?" (5 points)
Has a newspaper profited off your tragic downward spiral? (5 points)





Ever kissed someone of the opposite sex? (1 point)
Of the same sex? (1 point)
More than one person at once? (2 points for every additional person)
Were they related? (5 points)
To you? (-2 points)
Ever kissed someone on the mouth? (2 points)
Ever kissed with tongue? (3 points)
Ever kissed both members of a couple? (5 points)

Never been kissed? (-5 points)
Only been kissed by your mom? (-10 points)

You masturbate. (1 point)
How many times have you masturbated in one day? (1 point for each time)
Ever masturbated in public? (2 points)
A public washroom? (2 points, but ew)
In a library? (-2 points, I'm trying to study)
Did your disc ever get floppy? (-10 points, work on that stamina!)
Did you ever participate in The Contest (1 point if you get the reference and lasted a week. -2 if you don't get it or failed)
Have you ever masturbated with a pearl water wiggly/water snake? (5 points)
With an N64 controller rumble pack? (5 points)
With Larry from *VeggieTales*? (1 point)
Were you ever unable to watch porn because your mom was on the phone? (1 point)
Did you watch porn while using Netscape Navigator on a Macintosh? (1 point)
Did it download pixel by pixel? (2 points)
Did you finish before it did? (4 points)
Have you ever squirted like a Super Soaker? (1 point)
Do budgets make you moist? (1 point)
Ever bedazzle your penis? (2 points)
Vagazzle your vagina? (2 points)
Was it vexed? (2 points)
Have you ever referred to your bush as your "savage garden?" (1 point)

Ever had sex? (3 points)
Was it a threesome? (5 points)
An orgy? (15 points)
Ever had a one-night stand? (5 points)
Have you ever been the other person? (5 points)
Are you still a virgin? (-20 points)
Did you sing "I'm a Believer" by Smash Mouth, and then lose your virginity? (3 points)
Ever been someone's first time? (2 points per virgin)
Ever had sex with your friend's dad? (5 points)
Your friend's mom? (5 points)
Your own mom? (-100 points; EW EW EW)
Were you conceived at the U of A? (5 points)
Do you wish you were Cory and Topanga's love child? (1 point)
Did you know they're creating a show called *Girl Meets World* about her? (If yes, 2 points. If no, -10 points for being a bad '90s child)
Were you ever a member of the "Pen 15" Club? (2 points)
The mile high club? (10 points)
Did you spend the municipal election imagining what it would be like to have sex with Don Iveson? (5 points)
Karen Leibovici (0 points. Who?)
Kerry Diotte? (-10 points)
Did you know Don Iveson has size 15 feet? (1 point)
Do you know what they say about people with big feet? (1 point)

Have you ever sexted? (2 points)
Have you ever texted a naked picture of yourself to someone? (2 points)
Sent a Snapchat of your genitals? (-2 points, people can screenshot that shit)

Have you given a handjob/fingering? (2 points)
Received a handjob/fingering? (2 points)
Performed oral sex? (2 points)
Received oral sex? (2 points)
Was it a moustache ride? (2 points)
Performed road head? (5 points, but drive safe next time, asshole)
Received road head? (5 points)
Done 69? (6.9 points — or just round it up to 7)
Did you swallow? (1 point, good for you)
Ever performed anal sex? (3 points)
Received anal sex? (3 points)
Given a rimjob? (5 points)
Did it smell like teen spirit? (1 point)
Received a rimjob? (5 points)
Without a dental dam? (5 points for bravery)
Ever had someone teabag you? (5 points)
Ever teabagged? (5 points)
Ever fisted someone? (10 points)
Ever been fisted? (10 points)
Ever "blown the ocarina?" (3 points)
Did you put it in your mouth? (-1 point, don't you put it in your mouth!)
Ever been spanked by a slap bracelet? (1 point)
Did you tell them to "hit me baby, one more time?" (1 point)



Every done it missionary? (1 point)
Doggie style? (2 points)
Cowgirl? (1 point)
Reverse cowgirl? (2 points)
On the floor? (3 points)
Up against a wall? (5 points)
Up against a wall upside down? (7 points, impressive)
The 96? (2 points)
The Barenaked Lady? (2 points)
The Peekachu? (2 points)
After defeating the Elite Four? (1 point)
With the Master Sword? (1 point)
In exchange for a holographic Charizard card? (3 points)
Did you decline and make your boyfriends balls "blue, abba dee abba die?" (2 points)
Did the *Seinfeld* bass ever come on after a sexual experience? (1 point)
Ever hooked up during *Schindler's List*? (2 points)

Ever had sex in...
The SUB stairwell? (2 points)
On the LRT? (3 points)
On the bus? (3 points)
In Rutherford? (3 points)
In council chambers? (5 points)
On The Gateway's old sex couch? (3 points)
On The Gateway's new couch? (-5 points, you filthy heathen)
In Lister? (1 point)
In the U of A's Leadership College? (-5 points. Bitch, it's not built yet!)
On a water bed? (3 points)
On a bean bag chair? (3 points)
Underneath the soft glow of a lava lamp? (1 point)
On top of your beanie baby collection? (2 points)
In a car? (2 points)
In the back of a 1998 Ford Expedition? (2 points)
What about a 1991 Ford Aerostar? (2 points)
Or a 1990 Ford Econoline? (2 points)
Did you ever use your Walkman to set the tone with music? (1 point)
Was that music *Dance Mix 96* or *Now! 7*? (1 point)
Have you ever made sweet love to the song "Truly Madly Deeply?" (1 point)

Did you ever bop it? (1 point)
Spin it? (1 point)
Pull it? (1 point)
Flick it? (1 point)
Lick it? (1 point)
Tag team it? (1 point)
Pass it? (1 point)

Ever had sex with a classmate? (1 point)
With a professor? (5 points)
During a lecture? (15 points)
With a university official? (10 points)
Was it Indira? (50 points)

Ever used a vibrator? (2 points)
A dildo? (3 points)
A cock ring? (3 points)
Engage in a little BDSM? (10 points)

Do you own:
A whip? (2 points)
A flogger? (2 points)
A mini-flogger? (2 points)
Nipple clamps? (2 points per nipple clamped)
Sexy handcuffs? (2 points)
Rope? (2 points)
Bondage tape (2 points)
A sex swing? (5 points)
A fleshlight? (5 points)
Anal beads? (2 points)



Ever paid for sex? (10 points)
Has anyone ever paid you for sex? (15 points)

Ever contracted...
Crabs? (1 point)
Chlamydia? (2 points)
Gonorrhea? (2 points)
Syphilis? (4 points)
HIV? (10 points)
HPV? (3 points, get a vaccine)
Herpes? (0 points)
Trichomoniasis? (3 points)
A yeast infection? (-2 points)
Blue waffle? (50 points, just for your pain)
A baby? (-20 points for each one)
Did you name it North West? (-3 points, only Kanye can do that)
Have you ever googled your symptoms? (1 point)
Do you ever wonder if the NSA knows more about your sex life than you do? (2 points)

Have you ever fantasized about Tuxedo Mask? (1 point)
Sailor Moon? (1 point)
Mr. Feeny? (-2 points)
Sean Hunter? (2 points)
Principal Prickly? (-2 points, that womps)
Uncle Jesse? (3 points)
Uncle Joey? (-3 points)
Kelly Kapowski?(1 point)
Dawson Leery? (1 point)
Pacey Witter? (1 point)
The Pink Power Ranger (1 point, leave the helmet on)
Wink Yahoo from *Uh Oh*? (-2 points)
Thomas Lukaszuk? (-5 points)



Have you ever roleplayed as Homer and Marge? (1 point)
By yourself as Moe? (-2 points)
To the song "Barbie Girl?" (1 point)
Were you ever sexually attracted to Bill Clinton? (5 points)
Did you not have sexual relations with that woman? (2 points)
Were you in love with a Backstreet Boy? (1 point)
Was it Howie? (-5 points)
Did you reference your relationship as a "Ross and Rachel" or a "Monica and Chandler?" (3 points)
Did you and your significant other ever go on a break? (-10 points, it's not a thing)
Have you ever told someone what you want, what you really really want? (1 point)
Has anyone tried to hook up with you because you know how to play "Wonderwall" on acoustic guitar? (5 points, guitar skills are sexy)
Ever had a sexual awakening during the *Cruel Intentions* sex scene? (3 points)
Do you know about the "sex" reference in *The Lion King*? (1 point)
Have you ever Simba'd someone during sex? (5 points)
Did you hook up with them again later? (10 points, and holy shit. how could someone come back from that?)

Have you hooked up with someone from Tinder? (5 points)
UAlberta Confessions? (-10 points)
eHarmony? (-12 points)
Christian Mingle? (-15 points)
Brony Passions? (-100 points)



MUNCHIN'

(FOOD AND GLUTTONY)



How many times in a row have you eaten at McDonalds? (1 point for every time, max of 10)
How about Subway? (1 point for every time, max of 10)
Burger Baron (1 point for every time, max of 10. God rest your soul)
Do you like Filet-O-Fishes? (-2 points, who are you?)
Have you tried the poutine at McDonalds? (-2 points)
Did you throw up afterwards? (-5 points)
Did you actually like it? (-10 points)

Have you ever ordered a burger after a recommendation from our *Between the Buns* column? (3 points)
Have you eaten at RATT recently? (5 points)
Do you still think it sucks? (2 points)
Did the grill make a difference (-1, because obviously not)
Ever ordered le Royale with cheese? (3 points)

Have you ever used an Easy Bake oven? (2 points)
Have you ever used it to make pot brownies? (3 points)
Do you still use it to bake today? (-2 points)
Have you ever eaten 10 Ring Pops in one day? (10 points)
A whole box of Pizza Pops in one day? (5 points)
Did you ever just eat the sugar in a Fun Dip? (1 point)
Have you ever asked someone if they could smell what The Rock was cooking? (3 points)

Ever eaten a Double Down? (4 points)
Did you feel bad about yourself after? (2 points)
Ever finished a Tombstone? (5 points)
Have you ever strolled into Steel Wheels at 2 a.m.? (2 points)
Do you not understand the fascination this city has with Steel Wheels? (-5 points. It's the green onion cakes)
Have you ever eaten like a hungry hungry hippo? (2 points)



(VICES AND FUCK-UPS)

How late have you slept in? (1 point for each hour past noon)
Ever slept in so late you accidentally skipped a class? (1 point)
A week of class? (5 points)
A month? (10 points)
The whole semester? (20 points)



Ever plagiarized an essay? (3 points)
Did your professor find out? (5 points)
Were you expelled? (10 points)
Have you ever cheated on a test? (2 points)
On a partner? (2 points per time)
Did they find out? (-5 points)
Ever looked at porn? (2 points)
In the front row of a lecture theatre? (5 points)
With sound? (5 points)

Do you have any piercings? (1 point each)
Any tattoos? (2 points each)
Is it a Chinese character that you don't understand but you think it makes you look deep? (-10 points for being a douchebag)
Does your tattoo have a typo? (-1 point)
Do you have a "tramp stamp?" (2 points)
Ever play poker? (1 point)
Strip poker? (2 points)
Don't Wake Daddy? (2 points)
Twister? (2 points)
Naked Twister? (4 points)
Did you get a hard-on from playing it? (2 points)

Have you ever played Flappy Bird? (1 point)
Did you make it past the third pipe? (3 points)
Did you get so frustrated with Flappy Bird that you wanted to throw your phone out the window? (5 points — it's okay, we've all been there).



Did you ever wear a beret to school? (1 point)
Have you ever worn silver pants? (1 point)
Have you ever worn a mesh shirt? (2 points)
Did you frost your tips? (4 points)
Did you let him see that thong? (2 points)
Did your mom let you wear belly shirts? (1 point)
Did you fall off your platform sneakers? (1 point)

Ever wondered "Who let the dogs out?" (1 point)
Are you the real Slim Shady? (2 points, please stand up)
Have you ever done the Macarena? (1 point)
The Cha Cha Slide? (1 point)
The Cotton Eyed Joe? (1 point)
The Hamster Dance? (1 point)
The Harlem Shake? (1 point)
Were you a part of the U of A's Harlem Shake video? (-15 points, that was embarrassing)
Did you start cheering for the Oilers in the late '90s? (-10 points for all that pain)
Have you ever disliked Kanye non-ironically? (-20 points, uh huh honey)



(VIOLENCE)



Have you ever been in a fight? (2 points)
Rap battle? (2 points)
Dance battle? (2 points)
Pokemon battle? (3 points)
Did you get a critical hit? (1 point)
Was it super effective? (2 points)

Have you ever been arrested? (5 points)
Ever served jail time? (5 points, 10 more for each year after the first)
Have you ever carried a knife? (1 point)
Have you ever broken the first rule of Fight Club? (-1 point)
The second? (-2 points)

Have you ever committed a crime? (3 points)
Was it stealing? (1 point)
Public intoxication? (2 points)
Public urination? (3 points)
Indecent exposure? (1 point, but put your clothes back on)
Did you ever trick a kid into trading his best Pokemon card for your shitty one? (5 points, gotta catch em all somehow)
Did you ever accidentally starve your neopet? (-2 points)
Did you ever accidentally kill your tamagotchi? (-5 points, shame on you)

Have you ever shot a gun? (3 points)
Did you 3D print it at the public library? (2 points)
Do you know any UAPS officers by name? (2 points per officer)
Have you ever been part of an East Coast/West Coast rivalry? (5 points)
Did you kill Tupac? (-50 points, not cool dude)
Were a couple of kids who were up to no good, start causing trouble in your neighbourhood? (1 point)
Did you get in one little fight before your Mom got scared and said, "You're moving in with your auntie and uncle in Bel-Air?" (10 points)

MILLION DOLLAR QUESTIONS (BONUS ROUND)

How many Purity Tests have you done? (1 point per test, max. 7)
Ever gotten a negative score? (-100 points)
Did you cheat on this test? (Of course you did. 2 points. Otherwise, -1 point for honesty)

Did you have to check Urban Dictionary in the process of taking the test? (-2 points)
Ever use the Purity Test as a checklist? (2 points)
Are you doing this test in a bar? (2 points)
At work? (5 points)
In class? (3 points)
During a midterm? (5 points)
With your parents' consent? (-5 points)

g

THE TRIBE HAS SPOKEN: (THE RESULTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN)

Vanilla Ice
(0-125 points)

You priss. Your idea of a fun Friday night is staying in to watch the newest straight-to-VHS Disney movie that's "too rare" for theatres. Then again, you're always there to be the DD and you're so loyal that you're probably still a Buffalo Bills fan. You're trustworthy enough to be everyone's best home skillet, a straight-laced Cory Matthews to many Shawn Hunters who've gone astray. Don't deny it, you're a loser, baby, but you ain't no scrub. And for what it's worth, you survived Y2K with a clear mind and a bright future, until the world all comes to an end in 2012, of course.
Gatewayers in this category: Mergim Binakaj, Atta Almasi, Christina Varvis

The Dude
(126-250 points)

A little more seasoned, a little more cool. You'd never be caught rolling at a rave, but you're juuust shifty enough to make the gang from *Saved by the Bell* a little uncomfortable with that little bit of mary jane you snuck into the prom. A little *Dazed and Confused*, a couple speeding tickets here and there. You think you're pretty tough, but at heart, you're a softie and with a pretty vanilla personality. You live a slacker ho-hum life and dabble in doing wrong here and there. But it's all good. You'll make it through life just fine. The Dude abides. And he's out there somewhere, takin' it easy for all us sinners.
Gatewayers in this category: Cameron Lewis, Kevin Schenk, Anthony Goertz, Michelle Mark, Kate Black, Alana Willerton, Paige Gorsak

The Fresh Prince
(251-375 points)

Oh snap! No question about it, you bring da motherfuckin' ruckus. You're the life of the party, the king of the world in your own mind, rolling down the highway, laid back, sippin' on gin and juice. You've been to jail, but never prison. You went to school, but never finished. You're quite the swinger, always one to charm the apple of your eye, but never one to settle down. You've done some bad things in your past, but your life got flip turned upside down, and now you've become the prince of this big-ass house. Some say you never should have made it this far. But you know what they say, life, uh... finds a way.
Gatewaywers in this category: Darcy Ropchan, Katherine Speur, Ryan Bromsgrove, Andrew Jeffrey

Ol' Dirty Bastard
(375+ points)

"Fuck you, I won't do what ya tell me," is your mantra. You are a Golden God of excess and debauchery. Cash rules everything around you. You've had some incredible highs and you've known regret. You're a big, bright shining star, your name can cut glass, your drug use puts Hunter S. Thompson to shame and you're an expert of all *Se7en* sins. That being said, the good times can only last for so long. All those blacked out nights and drugged out days are bound to catch up to you eventually as you fall "Closer" to a *Downward Spiral* that leads you to your eventual demise. But maybe it's not so bad. After all, it's better to burn out than to fade away.
Gatewayers in this category: Tyler Hein, Helen Quevillon

Arts & Culture

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Volunteer
A & C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-0 4, SUB. C'mon by!

social intercourse

COMPILED BY Annie Pumphrey

Animal Attraction

Friday, Feb. 14 – Saturday, Feb. 15 from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Edmonton Valley Zoo (13315 Buena Vista Rd.)
Tickets $40 at eightminutedate.ca

Owl by yourself this Valentines Day? Instead of dodging cupid's arrows, take a chance and try speed dating this weekend while learning about our feathered and furry friends. Hosted by the Edmonton Valley Zoo and Eight Minute Date, the sixth annual Animal Attraction is a quirky spin on the usual speed dating service. Indulge on sweets and drinks while chatting with a new acquaintance, all while listening to the romantic and fascinating facts about love in the animal world. Ewe knows what might happen.

Silver Skate Festival

Friday, Feb. 14 – Sunday, Feb. 23 at various times
Family events, sculptures and snowshoes at Hawrelak Park (9930 Groat Rd.); skate races and Kortebaan at Victoria Oval (12130 River Valley Rd.)
Free

After Wiarton Willie spotted his shadow earlier this month, many Canadians have been groaning that we have six more weeks of winter. But fear not, Edmontonians: the annual Silver Skate Festival is here to make the most out of winter's final stretch. Situated in Hawrelak Park, this snowy festival features live performances, sleigh rides, a snow sculpture competition and lantern-making workshops. For those hung up on the Olympics and itching for some competition, the festival also features snowshoe races, ice skating races and the traditional dutch speed sprint skate event, Kortebaan.

The Dead Cold Run

Saturday, Feb. 22 from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Rundle Park (2909 113 Ave.)
Registration $45 at deadcoldrun.ca

The zombies are upon us! Next Saturday, bundle up and prepare... to run for your life. The Dead Cold Run is a Make Something Edmonton project aimed at raising money for the North Saskatchewan Riverkeepers, a local group working to protect and raise awareness of issues surrounding our local river. The fun run event sets participants as either "warm-blooded" or "coldblooded" as they sprint through a mystery obstacle course. Each "alive" runner will be given two health flags and will have to dodge the blood-thirsty "zombies" who are trying to grab these flags — all while running the 5k course through Rundle Park.

DinoStars

Runs until Saturday, March 8
Enterprise Square Galleries (10230 Jasper Ave.)
Free

When it comes to dinosaurs, the University of Alberta has a lot to be proud of, and now there are two new additions to add to those accomplishments. Say hello to two fresh faces to the paleontology world: *Chasmosaurus belli*, a rare intact baby dino, and *Edmontosaurus regalis*, a duck-billed fellow. You can see these fancy fossils for yourself at DinoStars, a special exhibit featuring the two exciting new fossils recently discovered by the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology, currently featured at the university's downtown Enterprise Square Galleries.



BLAKE FENSOM

Local artist Lyndal Osborne's life work honoured in new AGA exhibit

ART PREVIEW

Lyndal Osborne: Bowerbird, Life as Art

CREATED BY > Lyndal Osborne
WHEN > Runs until Sunday, April 27
WHERE > Art Gallery of Alberta (2 Sir Winston Churchill Square)
HOW MUCH > $8.50 admission for students

Alana Willerton
MANAGING EDITOR ▪ @ALANAWILLERTON

Lyndal Osborne has tread along many beaches, pathways and rivers in her life, but her recent walk through the Art Gallery of Alberta was one of the most exciting for her.

The 73-year-old Australian artist, who's called Edmonton home since 1971, has found her work the subject of a career retrospective housed on the entire third floor of the AGA, which features dozens of her astonishingly detailed prints and large-scale installations.

This is the first time Osborne's work has been put into a retrospective exhibition, and a milestone lies behind every turn. In one room stands her first ever installation, while another houses the last print she made before transitioning into other mediums. Yet another features "Surge," a claw like piece she started while working as an art and design professor at the University of Alberta from 1971 to 2004.

Some of her earliest stenciled silkscreen works are the first thing one sees upon entering the exhibit, and were inspired by her desire to "do ordinary things in repetition." With most of those prints sold over the years, the ones on display were borrowed to complete the exhibit from the Canada Council Art Bank and the Canadian Art Foundation.

"After all these years, seeing them, it's sort of interesting because I haven't seen them for 25, 30 years," Osborne muses, her Australian accent betraying her hometown roots.

The exhibit spans 40 years of Osborne's career, and walking through the exhibit is much like taking a walk through her life — the memories of loved ones lie within many of her collections.

"Tableaux," one of her first major installation exemplifies this best. The piece is made up of 320 cubbies attached to a wall, each filled with a dense collection of various materials painstakingly fused together with a syringe and glue.

Every box in the piece contains its own world, and with each one comes a distinctive mix of memories: the experience of a childhood day on the beach surfaces in a pile of twigs, while the memories of loved ones appear in others.

"At that particular time, my husband (Bill), he was a jazz musician, he died very suddenly right in the middle of this and I had to show it," Osborne recalls. "So rather than cancelling the whole show, I took out all Bill's collections. He had lots of things that he'd collected — not necessary what I would've collected. And I made this piece as a kind of memorial to him, and I continued on with it."

The piece also elicits memories of Osborne's mother, who died in 1990. In her memory, Osborne and her sisters had each collected a different colour of pebble: yellow, red and white. They now occupy a cubby together within the installation.

"Sometimes when something tragic happens in your life, art is a wonderful release," Osborne says. "It's a way of just doing something, doing anything. And I wasn't really thinking in an arty way, if you know what I mean. I was really thinking about Bill, my mother and trying to think of things that they would've liked."

Osborne's desire to make art about the things she cares about most — her garden, her family and the environment — is found in each subsequent installation, many of which feature hundreds to thousands of pieces and come with several pages of instruction to set up. It makes the exhibit's name all the more fitting, since male bowerbirds collect beautiful things to build a bower and attract a mate. If the female doesn't like it, he rearranges the whole thing to try and bring her back.

In much the same manner, Osborne spends much of every winter outdoors, diligently collecting pieces of nature to include in her art. These compilations are frequently re-imagined and redone before they enter into a gallery. Her acreage is situated near the North Saskatchewan River, and is an appropriate substitute for the Australian beaches she used to traverse.

"I do a lot of walking. I walk down to the river because it's very close to me and I just collect the things that are right there, because I think what's in your own locale can actually stand in for what happens globally. So you don't have to go to an exotic place to go and get something, you can use something here and use it metaphorically to suggest something that's somewhere else," she says.

> **"Sometimes when something tragic happens in your life, art is a wonderful release. It's a way of just doing something, doing anything."**
>
> LYNDAL OSBORNE
> ARTIST

As if to prove her point, the exhibition ends with one of Osborne's latest and favourite works, titled "Tidal Trace." Co-created with her husband, artist Paul Freeman, the piece features an 18-foot-wide video tucked away in a small room at the end of the gallery. On the screen is a rolling tide after a storm in Australia, and the sound of the waves roars and echoes across the third floor exhibition. The beach, made from various pieces of nature from Osborne's garden and rocks made from dyed tea bags, is meant to mimic Osborne's memory of a Newfoundland beach called Trout River.

The room is strangely enrapturing, leaving viewers staring at the screen for several minutes, and brings us full circle in the journey through Osborne's life. Although she says they put the piece at the end simply because it fit the space, it's apt that the end of the exhibition takes her home.





SUPPLIED

The building blocks of a best picture in quirky *Lego Movie*

FILM REVIEW

The Lego Movie

WRITTEN BY › Phil Lord, Christopher Miller, Dan Hageman and Kevin Hageman

DIRECTED BY › Phil Lord and Christopher Miller

STARRING › Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett, Morgan Freeman and Will Ferrell

WHEN › Now playing

Kieran Chrysler
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ▪ @CHRYSLERRR

Building bricks to best movie of the year, Warner Brothers fuses impressive CGI, spot-on writing and overall childhood nostalgia in the adorable *Lego Movie*. Co-written and directed by *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* wonder team Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, the film is a witty and heartwarming tribute to the Lego franchise and those who've loyally played with the iconic bricks all these years.

The Lego Movie delves into the life of protagonist Emmett (Chris Pratt), just an average Lego piece living in Bricksville. He reads his instruction manuals for everything from waking up to creating skyscrapers at his construction job. But everything changes when a mysterious figure turns up at his job site. When Emmett interferes with the stranger's mysterious activities, he's marked Lego World's saviour and is thrown into a raucous journey against the evil President Business (Will Ferrell). Emmett teams up with the rebellious Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), secretive Batman (Will Arnett) and wise Victruvius (Morgan Freeman) to battle against the president who is trying to glue the world together.

The animation in the film is a wonder to behold, and easily one of the best uses of CGI in recent years. Real-looking LEGO pieces build every aspect of the film, from scenery and food to even the explosions — jarring spectacles of red, grey and flame pieces create tiny mushroom clouds of firey destruction. When being shot at, the characters dodge LEGO "lasers," and in the shower, clear blue water pieces and white soapy pieces quickly fill the space — and the eye of hero Emmett. The effects help viewers become completely submersed in the universe, and the exact reproductions will have you reminiscing about your childhood box of Lego.

The film fully embraces the "funny for all ages" category, but instead of fusing slapstick for children and sex jokes for grown-ups, the film uses subtle humour and off-colour jokes about Lego-licensed franchises to satirize their own corporate image. From jabs at Batman's orphan state to quick pokes at the 2002 Lakers to how rarely Lego varies its faces, the humour is fast-paced and witty, keeping both children and adults entertained throughout.

Even though the movie is comedic, it also manages to comment on how the company has become incredibly complex, mainly selling huge "sets" that look more like collectors' items for adults than toys. Each "province" in the Lego world is divided, and the people that inhabit it are banned from crossing over. Through the adventure, viewers are reminded that Lego is primarily a toy for creativity, and while using the instructions is okay, you should also remember to flex your creative muscles and make a dragon attack a police car every once in a while.

The Lego Movie is a superbly crafted film that artfully balances childish humour and heartfelt twists, something we haven't seen accomplished much outside of Pixar in recent years. Be prepared to spot small references to the franchise, collector's throwbacks and hilarious takes on what you thought only happened to your box of Lego, like why is there a golf tee in here? As you leave the theatre, you'll shout "Everything IS Awesome" along with the theme song, and consequently have it stuck in your head for the next two weeks.

ALBUM REVIEW

Mas Ysa
Worth

Downtown Records
masysa.com



Kieran Chrysler
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ▪ @CHRYSLERRR

Montreal-based Thomas Arsenault, under the pseudonym Mas Ysa, flexes his electronic creativity on his debut EP, *Worth*. The nine-track EP highlights various electronic styles where Mas Ysa excels, but while valiant in his effort to mash up every genre under the electronic spectrum, he falls short in creating a strong album.

Lacklustre lyrics and garage-band sounding vocals characterize many of the album's songs, while a disjointed track listing keeps *Worth* from feeling consistent or cohesive. Mas Ysa jumps from fast-paced eccentricity on tracks like "Shame" into instrumentals that slow down the album's pacing. "David Wessels" is an ethereal, futuristic sounding instrumental track, coming out of nowhere with floaty synths, while "Worth" takes a more twangy, guitar turn. In theory, these tracks would change the direction of the album or act as transitions, but instead Mas Ysa just creates audial confusion with his smorgasbord of synth-stylings.

The EP's two standout tracks are "Why" and "Life Way Up From." They use '80s influenced synth to create two love songs, the latter a ballad and the former a dance track. While being catchy, they don't fit in with the ethereal tone on the majority of the album and feel out of place.

None of *Worth*'s tracks are inherently bad — in fact, each one could be a jumping-off point for a strong ambient album. But the arrangement is where *Worth* falls flat. Mas Ysa has attempted to showcase his prowess in creating multiple genred electronica, but instead of flowing together, most of the tracks feel out of place and drown out Arsenault's falsetto. The songs feel like they should all be on different albums or like you accidentally put your iPod on shuffle. And ultimately, their disjointed nature makes *Worth* not worthy your time.



SUPPLIED

Monuments Men cast struggles to save art, but fails to save film

FILM REVIEW

The Monuments Men

WRITTEN BY › George Clooney and Grant Heslov

DIRECTED BY › George Clooney

STARRING › George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray and Cate Blanchett

WHEN › Now playing

Michael Vecchio
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

While an impressive cast, star director and an overlooked historical story seem like the ingredients for a great film, *The Monuments Men* fails to live up to its potential. The band of actors is given little room to play within their characters, and while the message of the importance and indelibility of the arts and culture is noble and indisputably true, it feels forced upon us like propaganda.

Based on Robert M. Edsel's history book of the same name, *The Monuments Men* tells the story of The Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Program, an Allied Forces operation seeking to reclaim, safeguard and return cultural and artistic works that had been seized by the Nazis during the Second World War. The employees of this program included art historians, curators and architects, and it's with these "Monuments Men" that the film's narrative begins. But while characters such as art historian Lieutenant Frank Stokes (George Clooney) and curator Lieutenant James Granger (Matt Damon) are mildly endearing, their introduction and send off are rushed and ultimately flat. Even John Goodman and Bill Murray fail to create very memorable characters, despite their considerable talents. All the characters lack outstanding individual traits, except wanting to save the art.

The film's moral message is that art in all its mediums — from painting to sculpture to literature — is an essential component of our existence as humans, and without this ability to express ourselves, there's no possibility to leave lasting marks of our way of life. As Frank Stokes says, "If you destroy an entire generation of people's culture, it's as if they never existed." And while this is a poignant notion, especially given scenes of Nazis torching paintings, this honourable message never connects with the audience. Instead of a personal connection with the art or the shared experience of culture being pillaged, audiences get Stokes at a podium, lecturing on the significance of art and the importance of his mission. We're brought along as spectators on his quest, made to care because we're told to.

And while (art's importance) is a poignant notion, especially given scenes of Nazis torching paintings, this honourable message never connects with the audience.

The Monuments Men is generally entertaining, but isn't as profound as it pretends to be. Though a handful of jokes and a wonderfully rousing score by French composer Alexandre Desplat improve the film, it falls short in its celebration of art and condemnation of Nazism. It features an excellent cast who are given relatively simple characters with a lack of depth and an important story that needs to be told. But therein lies the problem — Clooney and his friends tell the story, but never give the audience the chance to feel it, or to care about art and human stories at the core of history.

ALBUM REVIEW



The Glitch Mob
Love Death Immortality

Glass Air Records
theglitchmob.com

Brad Kennedy
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ▪ @HELLA_BRAD

With their first album, *Drink The Sea*, The Glitch Mob made a respectable name for themselves in the electronic music scene. Now, the Los Angeles-based trio is proving that they haven't been resting on their laurels in the four years since their record debut: their latest album, *Love Death Immortality*, is a striking musical accomplishment.

While the group's previous work was dark and densely layered, with low rumbling melodies built around thudding basslines, *Love Death Immortality* breaks out into new and exciting levels of sound. By playing around with faster beats, a wider musical range and distorted vocal samples, the three young musicians who comprise the band — Edward Ma, Justin Boreta and Josh Mayer, known by their respective stage names edIT, Boreta and Ooah — explore the landscape of their music more fully, building an album that's much more energetic and danceable than their last. Before this, they were the electronic equivalent of a minimalist pop act like The xx. Now, they sound closer to prominent European EDM acts such as Justice or The Prodigy, but with a distinctive west coast twist.

Love Death Immortality opens strongly with "Mind of a Beast," a fast-paced track that weaves a shrill and frenetic melody through a jackhammer-paced beat that gets the blood pumping less than a minute into the album. From there, songs such as "Our Demons" and "Becoming Harmonious" showcase the trio's ability to match their music expertly to vocals from guest artists like Aja Volkman and Metal Mother, while still maintaining a perfect rhythmic house beat.

At times, The Glitch Mob slide back into their older, quieter sound: Tracks like "Can't Kill Us" are a perfect display of the style that got them this far, and it's a welcome nod to fans of their work. But the moments where *Love Death Immortality* breaks away from this formula makes it feel like one day, The Glitch Mob could be at the foreground of the electronic music world — or at least the western half of it.

fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Alexandros Papavasiliou**



Ola Szopiak
BUSINESS IV

GATEWAY: › Describe what you're wearing.

OLA: › I'm wearing shoes from Aldo, socks from Simons, a jacket and beanie from Aritzia, a scarf from Costa Blanca, a tank top from Oak and Fort, gloves and a plaid shirt from Urban Outfitters.

GATEWAY: › Do you have any style icons or designers that influence your style?

OLA: › I love Lauren Conrad, she's awesome. For designers, I would say Marc Jacobs. I also love the grunge-chic fashion choices from Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

SUPPLIED

Valentine's Day inspiration from famous lovebirds



Arts & Culture Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

With Valentine's day just around the corner, love is in the air — and on everyone's minds. Whether you're spending the holiday with that special someone or celebrating alone, remember that love deserves to be celebrated in all of its forms. Five *Gateway* writers talk about their favorite romantic icons to rejoice in the atmosphere of love and affection that surrounds us this Feb. 14.

Beyonce and Jay Z

I can't have been the only person swooning during the Grammys this year. Beyonce was perfect, and not only does this woman have a stack of Grammy awards and a killer body, but her husband is still completely in love with her after six years of marriage (and one toddler).

Just in case anyone missed it, Jay Z concluded his acceptance speech with a shout-out to our Queen B: "I want to thank ... all the universe for conspiring and for putting that beautiful light of a young lady in my life." How is that not perfection?

Over the years, they've been quite discreet as far as celebrity relationships go. They kept their relationship a secret in the beginning — with the public and media going crazy speculating over their status — and even opted for a private, personal ceremony when they finally got hitched. But perhaps the most inspiring thing is that they're more than in love. I wouldn't call them soulmates or "meant for each other," because I think that cheapens it to some exaggerated romance movie. Instead, they are legit best friends. They were friends before they started dating and so they have that strong foundation that's sometimes missing from other famous romances. Pictures show them whispering at basketball games, goofing around at parties and generally enjoying each other's company. More couples should aspire to be like that.

That's what I want this Valentine's Day. I don't need a dozen red roses or a mountain of chocolates. I want someone who will hang out with me on the couch, and who thinks I'm hilarious and awesome. I want someone who is my best friend first and my lover second. Thanks for the inspiration, Bey and Jay.

– Tamara Aschenbrenner

Kim and Kanye

As far as celebrity couples go, there's no twosome more perfectly paired than Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

Think about it: They're both legendary, almost mythical figures in their respective industries. Her "reality TV" antics are a beautiful complement to his "actual reality" shenanigans, and they love and support each other in ways that completely redefine our perceptions of the public celebrity lifestyle. He leaves thirsty comments on her Instagram. She stars in his music videos. He makes guest appearances on her show and hangs out with her weird family. And is there any celebrity gesture of love more real than when Kanye unfollowed everyone but Kim on Twitter? Sure, it's corny, but it's also kind of an amazing poetic statement in our social media-obsessed world. Kanye is always there for Kim, the same way she's there looking into his eyes in his intentionally-bad-yet-ingenious music video for "Bound 2."

Kim and Kanye live in a world where their romance is constantly scrutinized by a massive public following, but they act like the millions of people watching them aren't even there. That's why these two goofy, brilliant egomaniacs are a match made in heaven.

– Brad Kennedy

Prarie Voles

Out of all of the couples found on earth, the most romantic, lovingly devoted of them all are the coarse-furred, small-eared prairie voles. You'll never spot these love-struck furballs quarreling, sleeping around with other voles or signing divorce papers — because the *microtus ochrogaster* mate for life.

Found in east-central Alberta, once these fuzzy devotees seek out their perfect mate, they won't even think about casting their beady little eyes on any other vole. The prairie vole couples spend their time grooming each other's fur, looking after their babies and lovingly discussing the latest vole news. If it so happens that one of the pair dies, the widowed vole will not seek out a new mate, for his tiny little heart can only ever beat for one vole and one vole only. Child-rearing tasks are carried out equally by both male and female prairie voles, for these critters understand that the best relationships are those where responsibilities are fairly distributed. There are no breadwinners when it comes to prairie voles.



SUPPLIED DURZAN CIRANO

Appreciate the true meaning of love this Valentine's Day by looking out into your own Albertan backyard, and pay homage to the truly boundless affection of the prairie vole.

– Annie Pumphrey

Taylor Swift

With Valentine's Day coming up, being in a relationship is a big priority for some people, while being single is either devastating or fabulous for others. Personally, neither is a big deal to me because Valentine's day is just another silly day dedicated to commercialism, where people can be either over the top romantic by spending money, or gripe about being single yet again. But when you're feeling confused about the whole extravaganza, just think of superstar Taylor Swift and be inspired.

Although she's often adjudicated for her frequent dating escapades, that's not the reason I find her inspiring. What I appreciate most about this celebrity is that despite her many failed relationships (not to mention the various break up songs to go with them), she's found what's truly important: being happy with being you, regardless of your relationship status. Taylor gives off a vibe that she's okay with being successful without needing to be part of a weird combined-name relationship. So regardless of the date indicated on the calendar, just be happy to be you and enjoy every day.

– Nicola Flynn



Nevermore a theatrical portrayal of Edgar Allen Poe

THEATRE PREVIEW

Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allen Poe

WRITTEN BY Jonathan Christenson
DIRECTED BY Jonathan Christenson
STARRING Gaelan Beatty, Shannon Blanchet, Beth Graham, Ryan Parker, Garett Ross, Vanessa Sabourin and Scott Shpeley
WHEN Saturday, Feb. 15 Sunday, March 2 at 8 p.m.; 2 p.m. matinées on Feb. 16, 23, March 1,2 ; (no show Mondays or Feb. 27)
WHERE Westbury Theatre, ATB Financial Arts Barns (10330 84 Ave.)
HOW MUCH $24.50 $37 at tixonthesquare.ca

Brad Kennedy
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ▪ @HELLA_BRAD

There's no denying the cultural impact of Edgar Allan Poe. Not only was he one of America's first short story writers, but he was also the first American writer to attempt to live off of writing alone, and his work popularized the macabre and the detective fiction genre. Now, after a tour spanning Canada, the UK and New York City, Catalyst Theatre's play focused on this hugely influential author's life returns to the Edmonton stage once more.

Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe is a semi-fictionalized biography of the author, exploring the interplay between the details of his own tragic life and those of the stories he crafted. Told through a stylistically heightened and colourful theatrical lens, the production is comparable to a luridly gothic pop-up storybook, with musical numbers, striking visuals and outrageous costumes.

Veteran cast member Beth Graham has been with the show since its inception in 2008, and she's had the opportunity to watch the production grow to encompass all of the haunting majesty of Poe's work.

"(Director and Writer Jonathan Christenson) wanted to explore that dark side of humanity, and go to the scary, go to the huge romantic horror themes that Edgar Allen Poe visited. And you can kind of see how his life influenced that, so as his life is told, so do his stories kind of come to life," Graham says.

Nevermore has moved through various incarnations and reimaginings to become the performance that it is today. When the production first debuted nearly six years ago, it was a simpler narrative inhabited by characters that hadn't yet fully come into their own as a part of the story. Since then, Graham says, the show has evolved, and the production has shifted to a more character-driven performance with the experience brought about by years of fine-tuning the show.

> **"I think people should come to have an experience, and ... (I) hope they leave with maybe some empathy towards Edgar Allen Poe. I think all of us, to varying degrees, struggle with demons.**
>
> BETH GRAHAM
> ACTOR, *NEVERMORE*

"Now, it's not so much that the play and the story is enacted upon Edgar, now he influences the telling of it as well. There's new songs, there's new choreography, there are some new characters. It's changed a lot." Graham says.

"When you're working with the same group of actors and artistic team, and you just keep coming back to it and your relationship deepens, as well as the work."

Nevermore's constant state of evolution promises something new and exciting for anyone who goes to see it, even if you caught one of Catalyst Theatre's previous productions of the show. Graham says director Jonathan Christenson is still tweaking the show to make it the best performance possible, writing and adding new scenes on a daily basis, and working with the whole cast to integrate suggestions on how they feel their characters should act and react in the new material.

Graham is very excited to be working with such a fresh and dynamic show, especially one with such stunning visual effects and powerful dramatic storytelling. But the extravagant theatricality of the production isn't its only strong point: *Nevermore* brings the imagination of one of history's greatest storytellers to life in a fantastical journey that shines a light on some of the darker aspects of the human spirit.



SUPPLIED DAVID COOPER

"I think people should come to have an experience, and that they will. Though you hope they leave with maybe some empathy towards Edgar Allen Poe. I think all of us, to varying degrees, struggle with demons," Graham says. "Come to understand your own humanity in a different way, to learn about Poe, to learn about his work."

the brew crew — Victoria Stowe

Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbier Marzen

Brewery: Brauerei Heller-Trum Schlenkerla, Bamberg
Available at: Sherbrooke Liquor Store (11819 St. Albert Trail)



You've probably tried smoked gouda. But have you ever drank smoked beer? The word "Rauchbier" is German for smoked beer, and at one time, all malted grains used for brewing were dried in the open air and would pick up smoky flavours from the fires. These flavours would then pass to the beer, making for a rich, smoky beverage. But with the introduction of the kiln to the brewing process, the production of Rauchbier has almost become a lost art.

Today, it's only in the town of Bamberg, Germany that true Rauchbier exists. The Schlenkerla brew-pub is the world's best known producer, and is the only brand of smoked beer readily available in North America. Although some modern breweries in other parts of the world have tried their hand at duplicating the style, it's incomparable to Schlenkerla's 200 years of experience

The pour of Scherlenka's original Rauchbier is dark and mysterious. A sip of this beer is like a bite of meat fresh off the barbecue. Hop flavours are muted, letting a faint caramel sweetness balance the dark — almost like the sweet sauces that often season grilled meats. The finish is smooth and lingers like a furtive nibble of bacon, right out of the pan. Liquid Bacon. Does it get any better?

This beer is best paired with other foods that have graced the barbecue or the smokehouse: bacon, ribs and burgers. Even better, use as a marinade for the meaty treats you're bringing to the neighbor's barbecue — you'll be an instant Rauch-star.

ALBUM REVIEW



Jay Malinowski & the Deadcoast
Martel

Pirates Blend
whoismartel.com

Kaitlyn Grant
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

In examining his roots, Jay Malinowski searched for a story. The lead singer of the Bedouin Soundclash found one, far down in his family tree with an ancestor called Charles Martel. It's this personal history and Malinowski's journey to discover his roots that led him to *Martel*, his first release as a solo artist as Jay Malinowski & the Deadcoast. The record is a concept project that extends through time and space to more than music.

Martel was a Huguenot from France who moved to the New World to escape religious prosecution, and it's his life story that informs Malinowski's creative work. With this project, the singer branches out from music into other mediums as bridges his past with his own adventures and identity — besides the album, there are videos, an interactive website, and soon, a novella. Malinowski delivers a stellar multi-faceted performance piece that will captivate listeners, readers and viewers alike, and provide fans with a detailed look into the singer's private life and history.

The album features piano-driven melodies and a jazz-inspired sound that drifts through musical ages and styles, such as ragtime and pop. The 18 tracks are distinguished into two parts: Pacific and Atlantic, with a noticeable change in tone as we cross oceans from melancholy piano ballads and quiet strings to a more rhythmic sound with an intense string presence. The songs clash together in a musical carnival that's alarming, but pleasing to the ear.

Focusing on the grittier side of history, Malinowski sets the stories of his and Martel's individual journeys to song as he sings about how they lost love, fortune and time. In "Patience Phipps (The Best of You)," he begs a woman to be with him through the good times and the bad, singing, "Patience, marry me?/ Someday, somewhere, we could be happy / I know the past ain't clean / But time as my witness, one day I'll be."

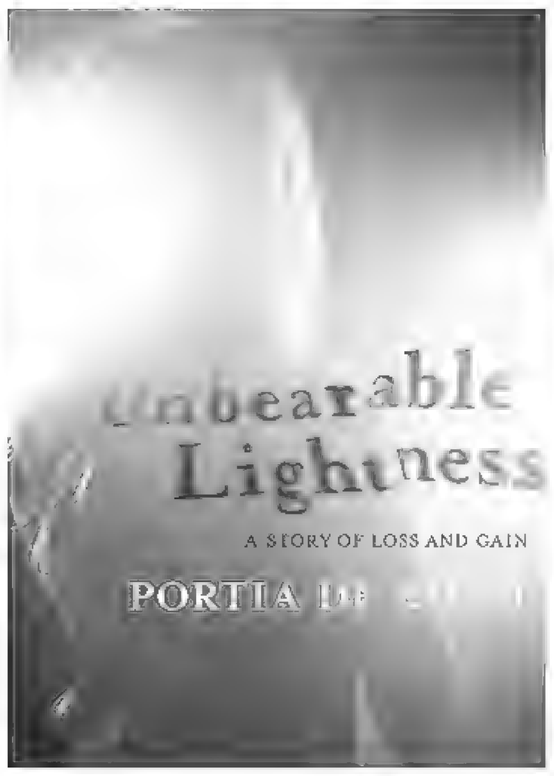
The album concludes as Malinowski reminisces on things he's learned from his journey: in the final song, "Low, Low, Low," he croons about traveling strangers, mislaid plans and moving on. It's the end of a journey that, thankfully, we're able to repeat and experience again.

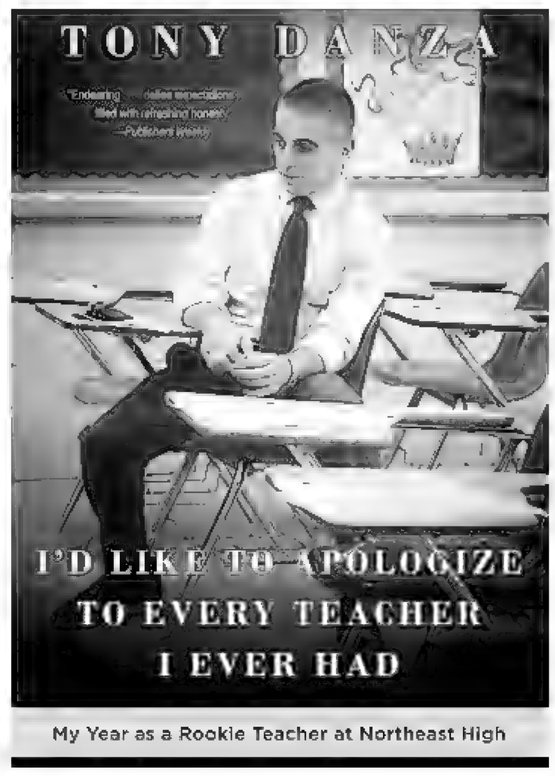
Book Buffs: celebrity books that break the mold



Jennifer Robinson
A&C STAFF ▪ @JENNROBINSON101







SUPPLIED

No matter how much we deny it, everyone's dreamed about being a celebrity. We all have that one famous face we'd love to be — or at least be best friends with. We creep their Twitter accounts, learn their beauty secrets and obsessively study their formulas for success. Some celebs make it even easier for fans by writing tell-all books, mass publishing their anecdotes for all to read. Granted, not every famous autobiography is a gem, but here are three celebrity stories that are inspiring, entertaining and push the envelope on what a celebrity book can be.

Bossypants by Tina Fey

Bossypants is a gold mine of comedy, which isn't surprising coming from the queen of comedy herself, Tina Fey. The actress and writer pours her heart out in her autobiography, revealing even the most personal stories. The *Saturday Night Live* and *30 Rock* star profiles her life from growing up as an awkward kid with a bowl cut to becoming the first female head writer of *Saturday Night Live*, and recounts infamous moments of her life — from Sarah Palin to Second City — with the hilarity and self-deprecating humour she brings to everything she does. In doing so, Fey takes herself from the goddess of whom we're not worthy, to someone we can relate to. Fey gives hope to every awkward teenage girl out there hoping to break into the male-dominated world of comedy, and for the rest of her readers, she'll just have you nearly peeing yourself with laughter.

Unbearable Lightness: A Story of Loss and Gain by Portia de Rossi

Not every celebrity's story is one of happiness and success, and some reveal the stories of their greatest pains in their books. That's the case with Australian actress Portia de Rossi. Known for her roles on *Ally McBeal* and *Arrested Development* and as the incredibly beautiful wife of Ellen DeGeneres, de Rossi came to America when she was just a fresh-faced young adult. She quickly succumbed to the dark world of show business, and like many before her, she became exceedingly self-conscious about her weight and appearance. The powerful book chronicles her painful journey through rising stress levels and plummeting weight, including the dark days on the set of *Ally McBeal* where she hid the truth: working out in her dressing room, skipping meals and hiding her sexuality from everyone around her.

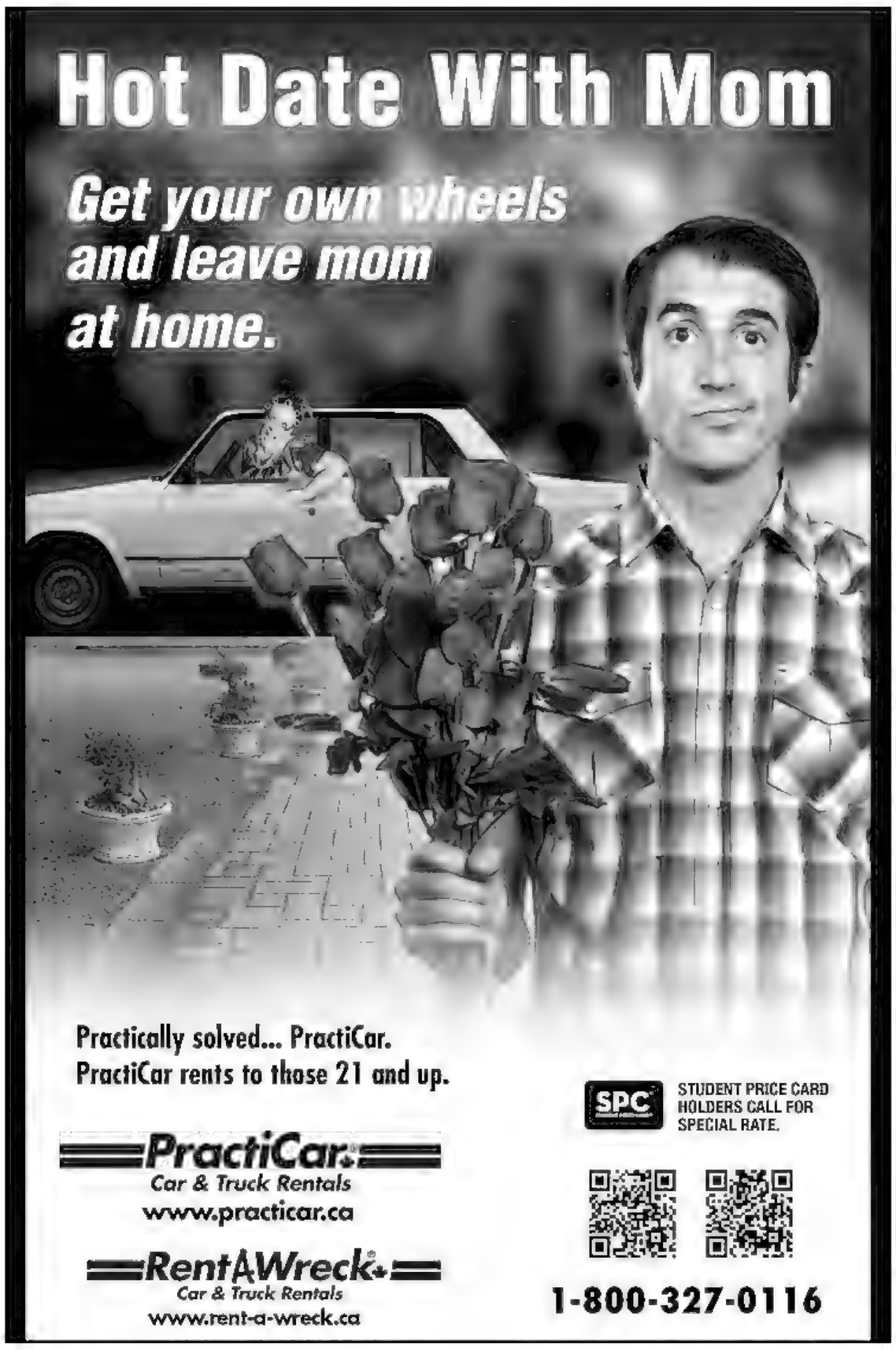
But the emotional story, which will have you in tears throughout, is also a document of hope, as de Rossi takes readers from her lowest low at 89 pounds through her recovery to meeting her future wife. The impressive courage it takes to tell her extremely personal story makes *Unbearable Lightness* an inspirational novel about recovery and acceptance that will foster hope in anyone who reads it.

I'd Like to Apologize to Every Teacher I Ever Had: My Year as a Rookie Teacher at Northeast High by Tony Danza

Not all actors start out seeking show business. Many take on other careers or even university in their days before fame. But for Tony Danza, his "normal" career came after his days of winning Emmys and Golden Globes. While he attended university in his youth, Danza's boxing and acting careers took him in other directions — until age 58 when he decided to give teaching a go. His book chronicles his atypical experience in the education game, like how he dove directly into teaching Grade 10 at Philadelphia's largest high school instead of easing himself in. Approaching 3,600 students and a staff of incredible teachers, Danza marvels at the altered highschool experience in 2009. The book follows him throughout his year from lecturing on American classics to heading fieldtrips and even to filling in his extracurricular requirements by coaching football.

One interesting aspect is that not only do we get Danza's experience and lessons, but we also get to hear advice from real teachers. Each chapter contains a section at the end called Teacher's Lounge where he shares what other teachers have passed on to him or lessons he's learned. Danza's book tells of his humbled emotions and shock at the things he sees and experiences, as well as his newfound respect for the teachers around him. *I'd Like to Apologize To Every Teacher I Ever Had* is a must read for anyone planning to pursue a career in Education or anyone who's curious about the insights of the *Who's the Boss* star.

Book Buffs is a semi-regular column in which a Gateway literature lover offers up their paperback and hardcover favourites to the campus community.





Sports

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EYES ON THE PRIZE The Bears and Dinos, who each handed each other their first losses of the season back in November, are fighting for the number one seed. FILE PHOTO —RANDY SAVOIE

Battle of Alberta clash for first in CanWest

HOCKEY PREVIEW

Bears vs. Calgary

Friday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. and
Saturday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
Saville Centre and Calgary, Alta.

Atta Almasi
SPORTS EDITOR ▪ @SCARBOROBLUFFER

Sometimes you don't have to go that far to find what you're looking for. In most of the previous seasons leading up to this one, the Golden Bears hockey team has had to look outside of their provincial borders and eastward to find their toughest competition. Heated rivalries and tense games with the Universities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan often led to great matchups in the playoffs as the three schools battled it out year after year for Canada West supremacy.

But with the slight regression of the Bisons and Huskies programs this past season, and the emergence of the Bears main geographical rival to the south in the University of Calgary, this weekend's season ending Battle of Alberta will take on increased meaning, as the two games will determine who will be the conference's number one seed and secure home ice advantage for what seems to be an almost certain CanWest final between the U of A and the U of C to decide which one will advance to the CIS national championships in March.

"We knew last summer when the schedule was set that we'd be playing Calgary (in) our last weekend of the year, (but) I didn't know at that point it was going to be for first overall," Bears head coach Ian Herbers said. "It's good for Canada West that it's going down to the last weekend. Calgary's had a very strong year, (so) it'll be a good weekend and some exciting hockey for the fans at Clare Drake Arena."

The last time these two teams played earlier in the season was when both were sporting identical 12–0 records as the only undefeated teams in the country. The Dinos took the first game 2–0, handing the Bears their first loss of the season, while the U of A stormed back on the second night at home to beat Calgary in overtime 3–2 and tie the season series at one.

> **"We've got to keep playing an agreesive style of play using our speed, our quickness and our skill."**
>
> IAN HERBERS
> HEAD COACH, BEARS HOCKEY

Despite having the opportunity to start the home-and-home series at the Clare Drake Arena this time, Herbers maintains that his team doesn't deviate from their style of play whether they're at home or away.

"It's always great playing at Clare Drake ... but if you look at our record, we pretty much have the same record at home (and) on the road," Herbers said. "It's going to be (two) difficult games whether they're at home or in Calgary, so we have to make sure we're bringing our A-game."

Both combantants heading into Friday's game at Clare Drake Arena are also only separated by the two-point advantage that the Bears have over the Dinos but both teams have suffered very different fates throughout the past couple of weeks.

While the Bears enter the weekend winners of their last five games, the Dinos have lost three of four including a 10–2 loss to the U of S.

Herbers says that despite the Dinos' recent fate, his team isn't distracted from the fact that the U of C was still the number one team in the country for the majority of the season and will be very tough to beat.

(We've) got to be great this weekend and we've got to keep playing an aggressive style of play using our speed, our quickness and our skill," Herbers said.

Home Scores

PANDAS VOLLEYBALL

3 - 2
3 - 1

BEARS VOLLEYBALL

1 - 3
3 - 1

PANDAS HOCKEY

2 - 1
4 - 0

Bears Athlete of the Week

WRITTEN BY Richard Liew



SHOT MAKER Baker had back-to-back double-doubles. MIGUEL ARANAS

F JORDAN BAKER — BASKETBALL

Jordan Baker's historic season continues as the fifth-year forward registered back-to-back double-doubles, helping power the Bears through to two straight victories against the University of Manitoba Bisons last weekend. Baker followed up a game-high 16-point and 10-rebound effort on Friday with a 15-point, 10-rebound line Saturday evening in Winnipeg, as he led the Golden Bears to their sixth and seventh straight wins. Baker, a Graduate Studies and Research student, currently sits among the top 10 in Canada West scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage and steals, anchoring the 18–2 Bears to a position atop the Prairie Division standings.

Pandas Athlete of the Week

WRITTEN BY Katherine Hill

OH MEG CASAULT – VOLLEYBALL

After Jaki Ellis graduated last year and the Pandas lost the majority of their senior players, it was unclear who the Pandas would be able to rely upon for consistently great efforts night after night. So far, second-year outside hitter Meg Casault has been able to fill the role beautifully for the Pandas. She continued to do so this past weekend, as the former Strathcona Composite student contributed 23 kills and 17 digs on Friday, and 15 kills and 14 digs on Saturday, lifting the young team to back-to-back stunning upsets of the first-ranked UBC Thunderbirds who are also six-time defending CIS champions.



MURDERIN' MEG Casualt recorded 38 kills last weekend. AMANDA WANG

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- must not be current Gateway volunteers

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PLEA FOR A FEE:

EXPLORING THE NEW REC SERVICES AND ATHLETICS FEE PROPOSAL



FEE GAMES Students, such as these ones outside Clare Drake Arena, won't be expected to foot entire bill in new fee. FILE PHOTO – ZAIN NAQVI

Dean vows faculty's new funding won't be "on the backs of students"

ATHLETICS & REC FEE

Atta Almasi & Adam Pinkoski
SPORTS STAFF

In an age of rapid growth to both varsity and recreational athletics across the country in light of CIS' recent aggressive five-year plan to become the world's premier university sports organization, and the proven importance of physical health and well-being of students, faculty and staff on campus, the Physical Education and Recreation Faculty at the University of Alberta is moving forward with the Students' Union and Graduate Student Association to propose a new Athletics and Recreation fee to cover the added cost of their ambitious expansion.

As is the case with any organization that feels the need to ask people for more money, determining a fair price for contributors to pay is usually the highest priority for any group's proposal.

For the University of Alberta's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, arriving at a fair price that students would have to pay — pending the results of an upcoming plebiscite for their newly proposed Athletics and Recreation fee increase — was a process that took a lot of discussion, energy and time with all concerned parties on campus. But it 's produced a result which faculty dean Kerry Mummery feels both the department and student community as a whole could be comfortable with.

"There's a couple of things that go into just trying to determine the value for a proposed increase, and (we've) worked with both the SU and the GSA on that," Mummery said concerning his faculty's negotiations with the Students' Union and Graduate Students Association.

"The mandatory non-instructional fee committee, MNIC, determined at one point that we were $6 million a year underfunded. And if you divide six million by 30,000, you get a very large number. We haven't accepted that exactly, (and) even though that's out there, that's not where we started."

> **"The misperception is that student fees fund entirely the expense to the operations that we (run), but they only provide a tiny fraction."**
>
> DR. KERRY MUMMERY
> DEAN, FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

The number that was initially settled on, which Mummery concedes "was more like $60-some a year," is more than the current fee proposal of $32. 76, was reduced by Mummery and his colleagues after re-evaluating the situation on their own. They determined that even asking for what they thought was a reasonable price may not have been totally fair to the students.

"We did come down to (the $60) value, which I believe … would help us to erase deficits, but then we said we don't expect the students to carry all of that," Mummery said. "I think the misperception is that the student fees fund entirely the expense to the operations that we (run), but they only provide a fraction."

Erasing this misconception was key for Mummery, who said the faculty will come up with the other half of the initially proposed $60 per student, which resulted in the figure of $16. 38 or $32. 76 throughout the full year, for the upcoming plebiscite in March. For Mummery, the fact that the faculty already does much of its fundraising on its own and is asking for its first student fee increase in 18 years are both reasons he hopes that the campus community will be on board with the proposal, especially when the dean is very confident the faculty's ability to generate revenue elsewhere will continue to be successful.

"It's an increase for the first time in 18 years, (and) it's never a good time to ask for a fee increase, but there's acknowledgement that it's not all on the backs of the students," Mummery reiterated. "We've worked very hard over those 18 years to raise money in other ways and we're relatively effective in doing so, including building the buildings that we do. The faculty brought in almost $26 million worth of funds to do the PAW Centre. Students are contributing a lot as well, but the faculty value added to that. The faculty essentially built the south campus, (and) that's not from any university funds and that's not from any student funds.

"The faculty, in a very entrepreneurial way — and a lot of this predates me in a role as dean — did that by going out and strengthening various partnerships and raising money in various ways. It's pretty important though that we don't just go to the students and say, 'Come on guys, pay for everything.' We don't do that."

Check out The Gateway *online at gtwy.ca and our Feb. 26 issue for continued coverage and analysis of the proposed fee.*

CANADA WEST PLAYOFF PREVIEW

canadawest

#3 Alberta Golden Bears

Record: 15–7
CIS Top 10 ranking: 3rd
2012–13 finish: 5th in CIS

Overview: Having clinched a playoff berth a few weeks ago, the Golden Bears volleyball squad was able to finish the season as the third seed in the conference and secure home-court advantage in the Canada West quarterfinals. While the Bears dominated the preseason coaches' poll, receiving 10 of a possible 11 first-place votes, a three-game losing streak in early November dropped them behind Trinity Western and McMaster in the CIS Top 10 for the remainder of the season. Despite their early season woes, the Bears surged towards a respectable 11–4 record since their three-game losing skid, but were edged by UBC in a tiebreaker to finish second overall.

Strength: There's a reason why the Bears opened the season atop the CIS rankings — veteran leadership and experience. Fifth-year returnees from last year's 20–2 team, Jarron Mueller, Jay Olmstead and Matt McCreary, all found themselves in the U of A men's volleyball record books at the conclusion of the season.

Weakness: The Bears ranked eighth in the conference in both service aces and digs, putting them in the bottom half of the CanWest in each category. Besides that, they've been very good all season in a competitive conference, only losing one season series to a formidable Trinity Western University team.

Key Players: M John Goranson, S Jarron Mueller and LS Jay Olmstead.

Diagnosis: The Bears simply have the better roster and fans should expect the green and gold to sweep the Dinos 2–0 at the Saville Centre this weekend since the Bears also haven't lost two games in a row since mid-November, either sweeping or spliting all their series since then. The Bears also have a chip on their shoulder from last year when a 19–0 start to the season was floundered down the stretch and for most of the graduating seniors on this team, this year's playoffs offers a chance of redemption.

VOLLEYBALL

#3 Bears vs. #6 Calgary

Friday, Feb. 14 — Sunday, Feb. 16
Saville Centre
canadawest.tv
season series split 1–1

Written by Richard Liew

"To be successful in the playoffs we need to do all we can to prepare for our opponent that week and ... leave everything on the floor."

JARRON MUELLER
SETTER, BEARS VOLLEYBALL

"We need to believe in ourselves and our ablilities. We've come so far this season and ... it's important to have that confidence in each other."

AMY KOWALCHUK
MIDDLE, PANDAS VOLLEYBALL

#6 Calgary Dinos

Record: 11–11
2012–13 finish: Did not make playoffs

Overview: After going on a 4–2 run from the end of November through mid-January, the Dinos finally found themselves ranked within the CIS Top 10 at 10th overall. Unfortunately, the Dinos' new success wouldn't last long, as they dropped their next three, including two at home while hosting the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, ousting them back into unranked territory. The Dinos registered just two winning streaks all season, both of which lasted only three games apiece. Despite the up-and-down season, the Dinos managed to best the mighty Trinity Western University, handing the 20–2 Spartans their first loss of the season on Nov. 16.

Strength: In case you haven't noticed — and how could you not — the Dino's Ivan Kartev is absolutely massive. At a towering 7'1" inch — a good five inches taller than any Golden Bear — the fourth-year middle from France ranked fifth overall in Canada West hitting percentage and fourth in blocks, anchoring a strong Dinos defence that finished second in team blocks this season.

Weakness: If the Dinos expect to make a serious run in the post-season, they'll need to do more than alternate wins and losses, especially in a best-of-three first round series on the road. The Dinos own a 5–6 record away from the Jack Simpson Gym and have won just two of their last five road games.

Key Players: OH Greg Mann, M Ivan Kartev and S Alex Cook.

Diagnosis: The Dinos have struggled with consistency this year and have also had a tough time against opponents with a record better than .500 as well, going a combined 3–7 against such squads. In fact, had the Dinos not triumphed over the Brandon Bobcats in the final game of the season, leap-frogging them for the sixth seed in the Canada West playoffs, Calgary would have been stuck in a three-way tie for the last playoff spot and might have realistically not made the post-season for the second consecutive year.



FILE PHOTO — AMANDA WANG



FILE PHOTO — AMANDA WANG

#4 Manitoba Bisons

Record: 13–9
CIS Top 10 ranking: 5th
2012–13 finish: CanWest quarterfinals

Overview: It's usually the teams from Alberta and B. C. that have gone on to represent CanWest and achieve success nationally on behalf of the conference, but if one had to pick a team from the eastern regions of the conference that has continuously proven to be a contender for one of those coveted conference spots to the national championships, the University of Manitoba Bisons would probably be first on that list. Led by players such as Team Canada beach volleyball member Taylor Pischke, the Bisons have rolled to another respectable record and have clinched the all-important home court advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

Strength: The fact that the Bisons only lost one player to graduation last year and returned their entire lineup — save one crosstown transfer from the University of Winnipeg — from 2012–13 means that Manitoba has been able to rely on a level of comfortability and consistency not often afforded to many other teams in their conference.

Weakness: While some wouldn't identify it as a weakness per se, the fact that the Bisons have beat everyone they were supposed to during the season in terms of winning against teams below them in the standings should be a bit worrisome for Manitoba, since being able to beat teams like UBC and Trinity Western are requisites for making it to nationals.

Key Players: RS Rachel Cockrell, S Brittany Habing, L Caleigh Dobie.

Diagnosis: Even though Manitoba is ranked above the Pandas in the standings, their inability to string wins together may play right into the Pandas' hands. Also, Manitoba isn't that much better in the way of playoff experience, and at least most of the Pandas players now in the starting lineup for the U of A were bench players or redshirts on either one or both of the teams that won back-to-back CIS silver medals, so the Pandas should be able to win in three.

VOLLEYBALL

#5 Pandas @ #4 Manitoba

Friday, Feb. 14 — Sunday, Feb. 16
Winnipeg, Man.
canadawest.tv
season series split 1–1

Written by Atta Almasi

#5 Alberta Pandas

Record: 13–9
CIS Top 10 ranking: 6th
2012–13 finish: CIS bronze medalists

Overview: Some people wrote this year off as a rebuilding year due to the departure of arguably the best player to ever wear the green and gold for head coach Laurie Eisler's squad, Jaki Ellis. However, despite only having only two senior players in middles fourth-year Dione Lang and fifth-year Amy Kowalchuk, the Pandas were able to not only make the playoffs, but clinch the fifth seed as well in the always competitive CanWest conference. With wins against multiple CIS Top 10 ranked teams despite uncharacteristically not ever being ranked there themselves this season, the Pandas have proven that they're a team ready to compete right now.

Strength: Although youth may be an accurate word to describe this year's incarnation of coach Eisler's team, the word fearless would also be an appropriate descriptor for the 13–9 Pandas squad. Despite many players embracing their first real year starting for the Pandas as first and second-year athletes, the Pandas have been able to defeat some pretty stiff competition.

Weakness: It's strange to think that a team less than two seasons removed from a CanWest championship and winners of back-to-back CIS silver medals is suffering from a lack of experience, but that's going to be the Pandas experience heading into playoffs this year with so many new and unfamiliar faces in their lineup.

Key Players: OH Meg Casault, L Jessie Niles and M Jessica Stroud

Diagnosis: While the defending CIS finalists Pandas are used to starting the playoffs with home court advantage, the U of A's women's volleyball team will be buoyed by the fact that they have won their last five games, including a regular season-ending two-game sweep of six-time defending national champion UBC Thunderbirds. This is a feat they failed to accomplish in previous years, even with more experienced teams so this year's Pandas are definitely for real.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

QUARTERFINALS

#2 UBC Thunderbirds

Record: 15–7
CIS Top 10 ranking: 4th
2012–13 finish: 4th in CanWest

Overview: Even though the T-Birds finished the 2013–14 regular season with the exact same record they had last year, this time they receive the second seed as opposed to last year's fourth place standing.

Strength: Like many other teams in the conference that were expected to play great, it took awhile for the T-Birds to get started. Still, they eventually went 14–2 down the stretch after a disappointing 1–4 start.

Weakness: Although the T-Birds did eventually rebound from that awful 1–4 start, all five of those early games were against teams that finished in the top five of the CanWest standings.

Key Players: OH Alex Russell, S Milan Nikic and L Ian Perry.

Diagnosis: Having never swept any of the teams currently sitting in the top five in the CanWest standings, UBC can be sure that even though the T-Birds will most likely take out the Brandon Bobcats in two games during their first round playoff series, their post-season journey will probably end up how it did last year: a fourth place finish at the CanWest final four.

#7 Brandon Bobcats

Record: 10–12
CIS Top 10 ranking: 10th
2012–13 finish: CIS bronze medalists and CanWest champions

Overview: The Bobcats were able to advance to the CanWest Final Four as the sixth seed last year and beat the then number one team in the country in the Golden Bears. Although the follow-up version of that team is only 10–12 on the season, they're still the reigning CanWest champs and CIS bronze medalists.

Strength: Despite the fact that Brandon did lose a few key pieces from that CanWest championship team last season, the players who remain still have invaluable experience from playing at nationals last year.

Weakness: Brandon headed into the final two weekends of the season riding a nine-game losing streak and went on to split the remaining series.

Key Players: M Dan Boutwell, LS Sam Tuivai and S David Stasica.

Diagnosis: Anytime a team enters a playoff scenario under .500, it causes alarm bells to go off on whether the team deserves to even be in the playoffs in the first place. Brandon, at 10–12, only qualified with a luck of the tiebreaker after three other teams had the same record.

Written by Atta Almasi

#4 Thompson Rivers WolfPack

Record: 13–9
CIS Top 10 ranking: 6th
2012–13 finish: Did not make playoffs

Overview: Calling the WolfPack's 2013–14 season a turnaround may be a bit of an understatement, as Thompson Rivers' men's volleyball team was able to reverse back-to-back years of disappointment from not making the playoffs to clinching the fourth seed in CanWest.

Strength: Thompson Rivers has two players leading major CanWest statistical categories in Brad Gunter and Colin Carson, who led the entire conference in kills and assists respectively.

Weakness: The WolfPack may be 7–4 at home, but away from Kamloops, TRU has only four wins in 11 games, a daunting prospect if they move on to the CanWest Final Four in Vancouver.

Key Players: RS Brad Gunter, S Colin Carson and M Jacob Tricarico.

Diagnosis: Apart from two mishaps against Calgary near the start of the season and Manitoba at the end — and excluding a two-game sweep to Trinity Western — the WolfPack should be good enough to win at home again and take down the U of S in three in Kamloops.

#5 Saskatchewan Huskies

Record: 11–11
CIS Top 10 ranking: 7th
2012–13 finish: CanWest quarterfinals

Overview: Saskatchewan is just one of five teams in CanWest to be ranked in the CIS Top 10, and their 11–11 record, which places them within one game of four other teams in CanWest and two games within six teams, is a testament to the obvious parity in the conference this year.

Strength: Before their final trio of matches in the season, the Huskies were riding a streak of 10 wins in 11 games, proving the dogs can string a couple of wins together in a row.

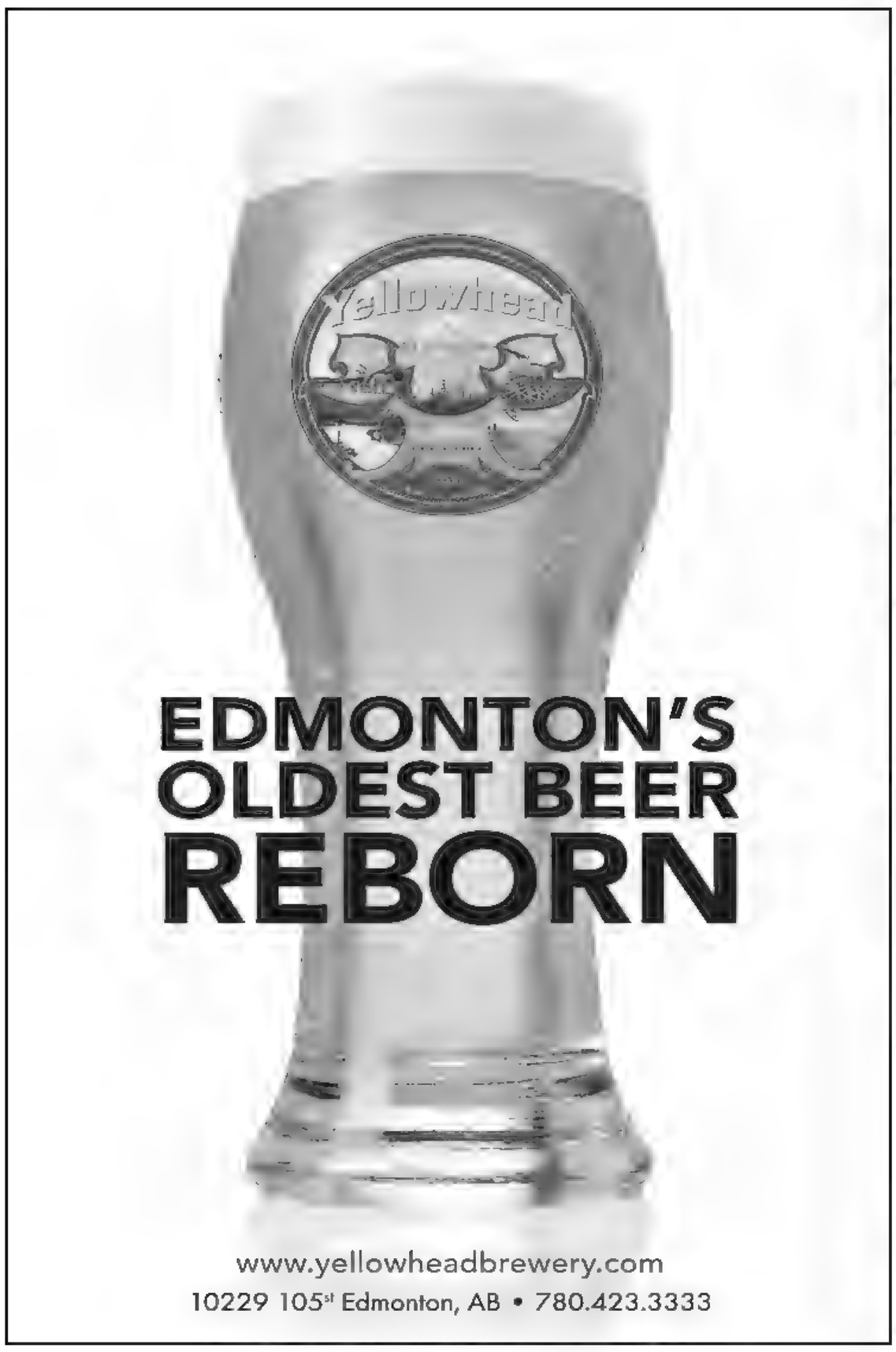
Weakness: The Huskies have had some trouble rebounding from losses and seem to be a streaky team in terms of never being able to only win or lose one game at a time.

Key Players: M Tyler Epp, M Braden McLean and LS Jordan Nowakowski.

Diagnosis: The Huskies failed to beat any of the teams above them in the standings, which is already a cause for concern. Ironically, the only CanWest playoff team the WolfPack didn't sweep or lose to is the team they'll be playing this weekend in the first round of the CanWest playoffs.

QUARTERFINALS

Written by Atta Almasi





WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

#2 Brandon Bobcats

Record: 17–5
CIS Top 10 ranking: 2nd
2012–13 finish: Did not make playoffs

Overview: After being a no-show in the playoffs the past two seasons, Brandon has seemingly come out of nowhere to claim the number two ranking in CIS.

Strength: Brandon head coach Lee Carter's Bobcats present a balanced attack, using their height to their benefit in the blocking and service ace departments despite their lack of any one individual player leading any of CanWest's major statistical categories.

Weakness: While on paper, Brandon has a veteran-laden team, the Bobcats only have five players who have experience playing in the playoffs and none who have ever advanced past the first round.

Key Players: M Meaghan Robertson, S Kellie Baker and M Alexis Loewen.

Diagnosis: The case could be made that Brandon is in exactly the same position that UBC Okanagan was in last year, albeit with a higher playoff seed of one spot. The Heat's lack of relevant playoff experience came back to haunt them as the sixth-seeded Cougars from Mount Royal were able to sweep UBC Okanagan in two straight games.

#7 UBC Okanagan Heat

Record: 12–10
2012–13 finish: CanWest quarterfinals

Overview: Last season, in only their second year in CanWest, the Heat rolled to a surprising third place finish in the CanWest standings before losing to the Cougars in the first round of the playoffs.

Strength: The Heat have been praised for the amount of depth they possess on their roster, which is especially key during the playoffs when rotations and substitutions could decide the outcome of a game or series.

Weakness: Consistency has been a problem for the Heat, who've had a three-game winning streak and four-game losing streak littered amongst numerous series splits and sweeps.

Key Players: M Katy Klomps, L Lenai Schmidt and OH Megan Festival.

Diagnosis: Unlike Brandon University, UBC Okanagan will head into this weekend's playoff series with some recent post-season experience under their belts. With last year's playoff collapse still fresh in their minds, expect the Heat to want to deal out the same sort of punishment to Brandon that they received last year from the Mount Royal University Cougars.

QUARTERFINALS

Written by Atta Almasi

QUARTERFINALS

#3 Trinity Western Spartans

Record: 17–5
CIS Top 10 ranking: 3rd
2012–13 finish: CIS bronze medalists

Overview: Along with their lower mainland rivals UBC and the University of Alberta on the other side of the Rockies, Trinity Western has had no problem in carrying on its role as a standard bearer for women's volleyball in Canada West.

Strength: Just like the Thunderbirds across the way, Spartans coach Ryan Hofer enters the playoffs being able to rely on a veteran squad which has won plenty of CIS hardware over the past five years.

Weakness: Slight blemishes on their record against Regina, the U of A and Brandon may be evidence of a Spartans team that can sometimes take their opponents lightly.

Key Players: OH Sophie Carpentier, M Katelyn Devaney and L Kristen Moncks.

Diagnosis: After a relatively tumultuous start to the season wherein the Spartans went 2–3 in their first five games to kick off the season, Trinity Western has been the hottest team in the CanWest. They've been virtually unstoppable during the past few months as they ride a 15–2 record into the post-season.

#6 Regina Cougars

Record: 12–10
2012–13 finish: Did not make playoffs

Overview: Despite the fact that they didn't make the playoffs last year, and — by virtue of being tournament hosts — automatically qualifed for the CIS national championships regardless of what happened during the 2013–14 season, the Regina Cougars showed some definite poise as they turned their 5–17 record from a season ago into a respectable 12–10 showing.

Strength: The Cougars have been playing noticeably better volleyball after the winter break, riding a four game winning streak and a 9–1 record in 2014 into the playoffs.

Weakness: Just like Brandon and UBC Okanagan, the Cougars haven't played meaningful volleyball this late in the season in quite some time, resulting in a very inexperienced squad.

Key Players: M Michelle Sweeting, S Desiree Ates and S Leah Shevkenek

Diagnosis: Regina has been good of late, posting a 9–1 record after starting the season with a dismal record of 3–9. However, inexperience should fail the Cougars in the CanWest playoffs leading to a a Spartans series win in three sets.

Written by Atta Almasi

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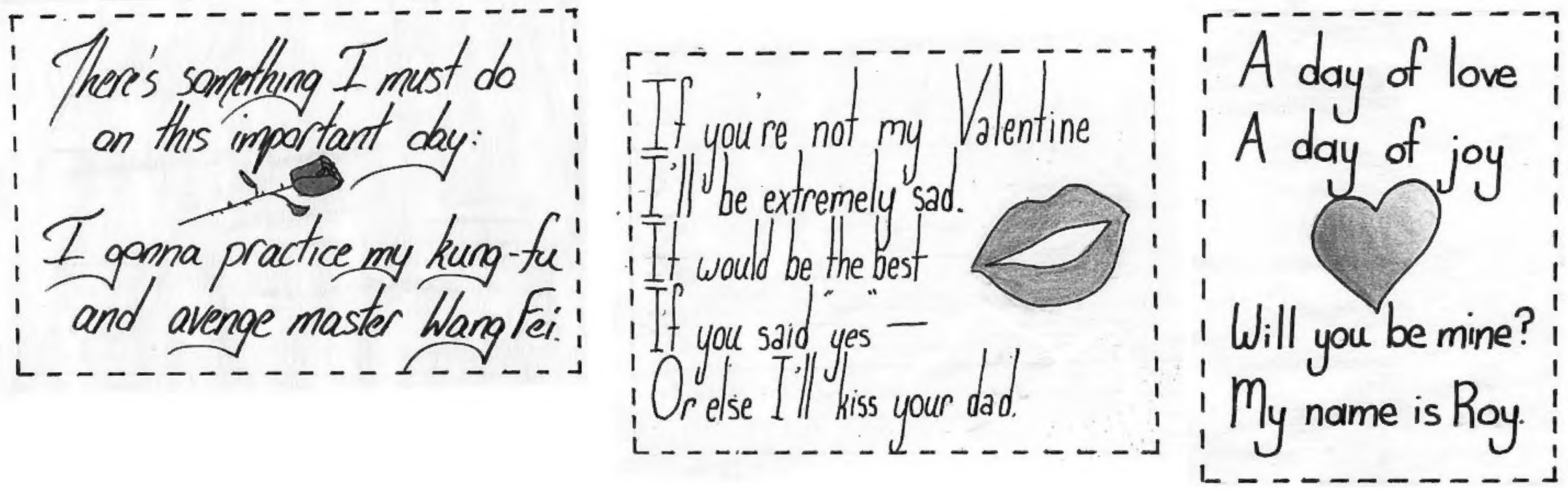
DIVERSIONS

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR ANTHONY GOERTZ PHONE NO. 780.492.6663 E-MAIL ADDRESS PRODUCTION@GATEWAY.UALBERTA.CA TWITTER HANDLE @GOERTZANTHONY VOLUNTEER MEETINGS THURSDAYS AT 3 IN SUB 3-04

VALENTINES ROUTINE by Nikhil Shah



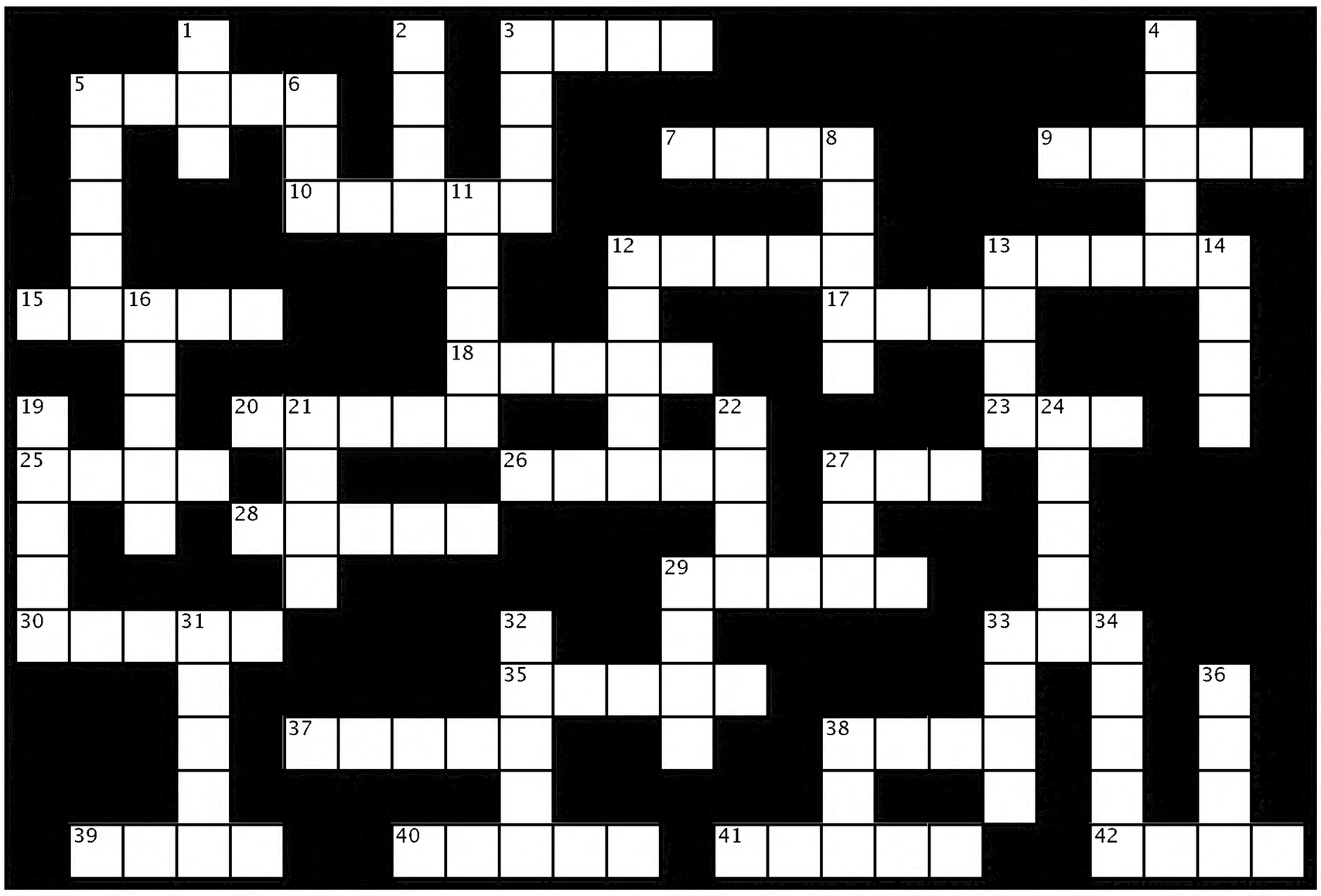
RED PEN COMICS by Michael Johnson



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CROSSWORD

THIS WEEK'S THEME: ONE WORD MOVIE TITLES. ALL TITLES ARE FIVE LETTERS OR LESS. ENJOY!



Solution on opposite page. Puzzle by Anthony Goertz and Crossword Forge.

ACROSS



DOWN



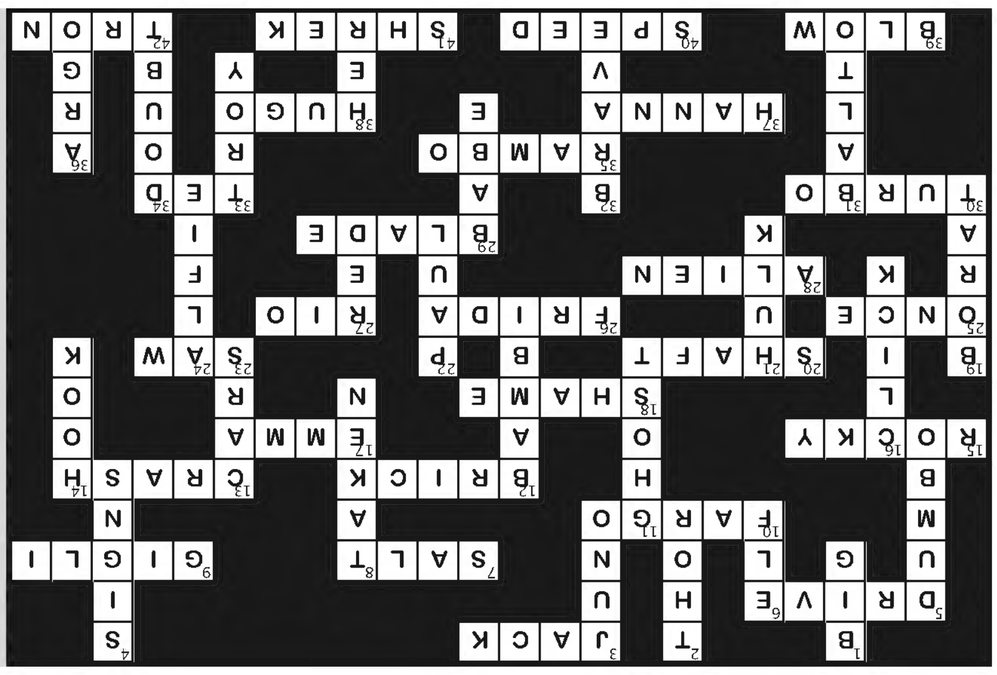
SUDOKU

EACH ROW, COLUMN, AND 3 X 3 BOX MUST CONTAIN EVERY NUMBER FROM 1 THROUGH 9.

		9			8		6	
	4	3			1			8
					9			3
		8		6		5	2	
	9						3	
	3	5		7		6		
3			2					
5			4			7	1	
	6		8			3		

Puzzle by *websudoku.com*

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